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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 2013

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW
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Justin's marathon

35-day Wales walk highlights the plight of Motor Neurone victims

by PHILIP IRWIN

THIS Sunday (August 18), Porthcawl will be offering a warm welcome to a Bridgend man who has spent the last 35 days walking around Wales to raise funds to fight Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

Justin Hostettler-Davies' walk has been inspired by the plight of his childhood friend, Gareth Hayes.

Justin and Gareth went to school together, and played rugby as they grew up, but things changed forever in 2010, when Gareth was cruelly diagnosed with MND, at the age of just 36.

Justin said: "There is no cure for MND at the moment. People do not get better.

"As muscles cannot be used, they weaken and waste away and people gradually lose the ability to use their arms, legs, eat and eventually breathe.

"Gareth is an amazing father to two young children – a husband, son, brother and friend. He won't get to see his children grow up, go to university, or get married."

Justin continued: "The cruelty of this disease means people with MND will not experience any changes in their brain or personality.

"Unfortunately, this means they are all too aware of what is happening to them.

(*Continued on page* 3)

Gareth Hayes with his wife Tracy and their two children.

Maesteg Rugby Club hit by arson attack

Police also probe flats fire

MAESTEG was hit by two arson attacks on the same day this week – and one of the town's best-known landmarks suffered serious damage.

South Wales Police are appealing for information following both incidents. Firefighters were called to Maesteg Rugby Club at 5pm on Tuesday (August 13) when a blaze broke out and engulfed a large part of the clubhouse and the adjoining stand.

A joint police and fire service examination of the scene was conducted yesterday (Wednesday) and they confirmed that the fire was started deliberately.

Police are appealing to anyone with information about the incident, or who saw anyone at the rugby ground in Llynfi Road on Tuesday, to come forward.

Detective Constable Lee Duke of Bridgend CID, said: "We are treating this as arson and want to hear from anyone who may have information, or who saw anyone acting suspiciously in or near the rugby ground yesterday. Maesteg Rugby Club is an important part of the local community and the considerable damage to the club will be felt by many people."

Anyone with information should contact 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 quoting occurrence 62130253574.

EARLIER BLAZE

Police are also appealing for information following a fire at the Blaencaerau Estate in Maesteg at around 3.15am on the same day (Tuesday, August 13).

A spokesman reported: "It is believed that a discarded sofa has been set alight outside a block of flats and spread to the roof.

"Residents of the flats were alerted to the fire and managed to vacate the property without injury."

If you have information, or saw anyone acting suspiciously in the Blaencaerau Court area, please contact the police.

NOTTAGE BURGLARY – APPEAL

POLICE in Porthcawl are investigating a burglary at the store shed and Sexton's office at Jubilee Gardens cemetery, Nottage – between 3.30pm on August 9 and 8.30am on August 12.

Among items stolen were a red Kawasaki petrol strimmer, red Honda pedestrian lawn mower, a muck truck with red engine, and an orange and white coloured leaf blower.

Police Constable Paul Humphries said: "We are appealing for any witnesses who may have seen anything unusual in the area over the weekend.

"It will have taken a considerable amount of time to carry out this burglary, and those responsible will have made a considerable amount of noise breaking through the walls.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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PRAISE FOR HOLIDAY CHILDCARE SCHEME

Vaughan Gething meets staff at Dexter's.

THE Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty, Vaughan Gething, recently visited a Welsh Government-backed scheme in Bridgend to provide affordable childcare during the school holiday, helping parents to stay in work.

Dexter's at Felindre Mill farm in Pencoed provides 24 childcare places every day of the summer holidays from 8.30am to 5.30pm. This summer, 40 families are using its services.

While at the farm, the children are looked after by qualified play workers and can feed the animals. Felindre Mill began providing childcare on June 1 this year and employs seven people.

The location of the farm means working parents from neighbouring counties in Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale can also use it.

The scheme was kick-started with a £5,000 Welsh Government grant earlier this year, part of £100,000 of funding given to Bridgend County Borough Council to provide out-of-school childcare in the area.

Vaughan Gething said: "This is a great example of how the Welsh Government is helping to provide high quality, affordable child care for working families. I am delighted to be here to see the good work for myself."

Tories launch a tourism survey

Suzy Davies AM, shadow minister for tourism and Welsh Conservative policy director, recently launched the first of two surveys asking holidaymakers for their views on what Welsh tourism has to offer and how the industry could be improved or marketed differently.

The second stage of the consultation will invite contributions from people working in the Welsh tourist industry, seeking views about the work and structure of Visit Wales, the support from Welsh Government for small tourism operators, and whether our industry is meeting the demands of consumers.

The first survey for holidaymakers is now available to complete online at: www.your-voiceintheassembly.co.uk/have-your-say-on-welsh-tourism/.

The results of the surveys will feed into Welsh Conservative policy and the manifesto for the 2016 Assembly elections.

Suzy Davies said: "The launch of these surveys is the latest step in Welsh Conservative engagement with the tourism industry to identify the demands of holidaymakers and whether our tourism offer is equipped to meet expectations.

"Small tourism operators are telling me that the Welsh Labour Government's tourism strategy is flawed, with insufficient support for small businesses and an unidentifiably clear brand for Wales.

"I would urge holidaymakers, whether they are from Wales, other parts of the UK or further afield to contribute to our debate."

THREAT TO FIRE STATION

Porthcawl's proposed 'regeneration' involves the building of a seafront superstore and 1,350 new homes, drastically increasing the town's population, but this seems to have gone unnoticed by South Wales Fire Service, who plan to close our fire station and move it to South Cornelly.

As I drove along the road between South Cornelly and Porthcawl, following a long line of cars behind someone crawling along at 25mph, I experienced a tiny amount of the frustration of a fireman as he tried to reach the new fire station, get kitted up and then return to Porthcawl to tackle a blaze in one of his neighbours' homes.

Despite claims to the contrary by the Fire Service, response times will inevitably be considerably increased and many here fear that someone could die waiting for a fire engine to negotiate one of the busiest holiday routes in Wales.

Porthcawl has many elderly residents and most of our holidaymakers stay in caravans, which have a lifespan measured in minutes if a fire takes hold, so this affects everyone.

With this in mind, 'Porthcawl First', a local action group, has arranged a demonstration to highlight this dangerous proposal; so if you live, holiday or work in Porthcawl, please meet outside the Fire Station on Eastern Promenade at 4pm on Sunday September 1.

Steve Maitland
Thomas
Porthcawl

Memories of RAF Llandow

A RECENT holiday in the Vale of Glamorgan included a nostalgic visit to what was once the RAF airfield at Llandow – now unrecognisable as such, of course.

It was where I was stationed both during and after the war, so it holds many memories for me.

During 1941-43, I served at RAF Llandow as a young Sergeant Armourer, servicing the Spitfire 1s, 2s, and 5s of No.53 Operational Training Unit, for aspiring young fighter pilots.

There was a satellite airfield at Rhoose, now Cardiff Airport, where our pupil pilots practised their air-firing skills. The Commanding Officer was that famous little Welshman and World War One fighter ace, Group Captain Ira Jones, whose favourite watering hole was The Bear at Cowbridge!

After the war in 1946-49, against all the odds. I was posted back to RAF Llandow, much to the joy of my dear Welsh wife, Linda, who hailed from Bridgend.

This time it was to No. 614 County of Glamorgan Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, flying Spitfire 16s and 22s.

Hence my nostalgic visit, and enduring affinity with the area.

Henry Hand,
Newbury, Berkshire.

'CIVIL SERVICE TO BLAME'

IN his recent letter, G Roberts seeks to blame the failings of the Welsh NHS at first, on the excitement within the WAG health department at the then forthcoming 2010 election. He then goes on to blame George Osborne.

What he ignores is that the Welsh civil service should have had nothing to do with the election - purely an issue for political parties.

In reality, what happened is that incompetent civil servants failed to apply for funding at the appropriate time. What happened to those officials? Have they been dismissed?

The WAG Health Minister, who failed to manage her officials, should have known the budgeting arrangements and must take full responsibility!

Health has been a devolved issue in Wales for many years. The failings of the Welsh NHS, of which there are many, are a consequence of poor decisions by the WAG and a total failure of Assembly Members to hold the WAG to account.

Although the £385m would have been more than welcome it has to be seen in the context of the £6 billion Welsh NHS budget – G Roberts would do better to place the blame firmly on those responsible rather than use Westminster as a scapegoat.

J Turner, Rhoose

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!
We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

MARITIME CENTRE WILL PLUG PORTHCAWL GAP

I RECENTLY met Porthcawl Mayor Mike Clarke, who is one of those involved with plans for a maritime centre in Porthcawl.

And, as Shadow Welsh tourism minister, I was delighted that, at last, we have proposals for something that will enhance the appeal of Porthcawl to visitors.

The plan would see a multi-million pound centre built on land alongside the new marina. I was delighted to hear that the group has now appointed a consultant to take this scheme forward.

This idea comes from the community itself and who better than Porthcawl people to know what Porthcawl needs?

It says a lot that it has taken a group of Porthcawl organisations and individuals to come up with proposals which will, in fact, provide the only additional attractions for visitors for this major seaside resort.

The actual multi million pound regeneration plan being promoted by the council is totally fixated on a supermarket and housing.

How many people do you know who take their holiday in a place where there's a nice supermarket to visit and blocks of apartment to look at? Exactly.

Although this group still has a long way to go – not least securing funding and getting planning permission – they have a sensible business plan and seem to have thought through the proposal very thoroughly.

I hope that council planners, and indeed the council as a whole, will welcome this attempt to plug the very obvious gaps in the town's tourism provision.

Suzy Davies
(Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west).

Coffee for Macmillan

Macmillan Cancer Support would like to invite all of your readers to take part in our World's Biggest Coffee Morning on September 27.

Just get together with family, friends or colleagues and enjoy cakes and a coffee – a very enjoyable way of helping us raise over £15m to help us reach more people affected by cancer.

The money you raise will help Macmillan fund specialist nurses, new cancer centres and grants to support people living with cancer who have financial problems.

For more information visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 070 1315.

Rebecca Parke
(Vale of Glamorgan Fundraising Manager, Macmillan Cancer Support)

'Huge mistake to be outside EU'

I WRITE to support a letter from David Kennett (August 8) who is correct to say how badly damaged our trade would be outside the EU.

Airbus, Ford, Tata etc., invest in Wales because they have tariff-free access to a market of 500 million people in 28 countries; therefore, if the UK was outside the EU, 3m jobs in the UK and 150,000 jobs in Wales would be put at risk.

It is no good arguing the UK could have a trade agreement with the EU similar to Norway. Such am agreement would take a long time to negotiate and (like Norway) we would have to pay to be part of a single market, but have no say on the rules.

We would be wise to listen to business people like Sir Richard Branson, companies like Nissan, and countries like the US and Japan, who all tell us it would be a huge mistake for the UK to be outside the EU.

Finally, some good news: I have been able to negotiate an increase in EU funds for Wales, including a huge increase to east Wales.

These funds can provide much-needed investment in infrastructure, skills training and SME development. East Wales should, in the next period, receive over £300m in regional funds.

When you add in rural funds, money to our universities etc., Wales is a NET beneficiary of EU funds.

Therefore, if we want to retain jobs and important investment funds for Wales, it is vital we have a strong voice in Europe.

Derek Vaughan MEP,
Ogmore by Sea.

The need for joined-up thinking

I WAS surprised to hear Welsh Health Minister Mark Drakeford claim that the Welsh Ambulance Service should not be branded a "failing service", following repeatedly missed targets.

So if the ambulance targets are as he claims "blunt" and "clinically meaningless", just how are we supposed to monitor performance?

I am critical of this performance as just 62.6 per cent of category 'A' emergency responses have arrived at the scene within eight minutes – which is well below the target of 65 per cent.

I feel these results are deplorable and although the ambulance teams are doing their best in the circumstances, they are not providing the service they should be doing for patients.

There has to be an improvement in the way the service is operating, but to date, nothing. There are clearly lessons to be learned as this is the 13th consecutive month that the target has been missed.

An effective ambulance service could mean a difference between life and death for patients. I will not, therefore, accept that the eight-minute target is "meaningless" and the people of Wales deserve better instead of excuses for not meeting targets.

We really need an independent public inquiry into the recent failings in the Welsh NHS, including both heart care and the ambulance service.

How many more chief executives and Health Ministers are we going to see before our NHS is finally improved?

We need to see the highest quality and safe care provided by our NHS, so perhaps it's time we saw some joined-up thinking in this area.

Coun Richard Bertin,
(Independent, Vale Council)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	00.19	8.4	12.48	8.2
16 Fri	01.28	8.1	14.14	8.0
17 Sat	02.49	7.9	15.38	8.2
18 Sun	04.17	8.5	16.53	8.8
19 Mon	05.28	8.9	17.55	9.5
20 Tues	06.23	9.6	18.48	10.2
21 Wed	07.11	10.1	19.34	10.4
22 Thur	07.58	10.2	20.19	10.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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JUSTIN'S MARATHON EFFORT!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Justin added: "As this disease has progressed over the last two years, Gareth has become completely dependent on the care and attention of his wife and family.

"In the last 20 years, there has been a lot of research into MND, and scientists from all over the world are trying to find out what causes the disease so they can find a cure.

"The only way to find a cure is to increase awareness of this terrible disease and to raise funds to help researchers."

Justin decided to walk 650 miles in 35 days, starting in north Wales on July 12 and finishing at Porthcawl on August 18.

Anytime he started to feel tired during the walk, he had only to remember the words of Gareth's wife, Tracy, who said: "My husband is 38 years old and has Motor Neurone Disease.

"It is terminal and has no cure. He has gone from being a very active, football-playing father of two young children to not being able to walk, talk, eat or speak – in just over two years.

"Our children are aged four and 11, so during 2011, we visited Disneyland Paris, Venice, Greece, Spain and Las Vegas while he could still walk.

"We also had our house extended to incorporate a lift.

"In May 2012 – against all the odds – our entire family went to Disneyworld in Orlando despite my husband being in a wheelchair and fed through a tube in his stomach.

"Our friends and family have raised over £50,000 since 2010 for us – and for the MNDA."

The money that Justin is raising will also be used to set up a new care network in and around Bridgend. Last week the total raised had passed £8,000, but supporters are very hopeful that the final total will pass £10,000.

People in Porthcawl can come along and give Justin a big welcome this Sunday, at 12 noon at Rest Bay Lifeguard Station!

ABOVE: Justin Hostettler-Davies.

Group is set to create 'arts hub'

BRIDGEND Arts Ltd have celebrated another successful event, following news that they are the preferred organisation to help create a central 'arts hub' for the town centre in the library building.

Their third public event, PechaKucha 101 was a discussion stimulating night, giving Bridgend based speakers a platform to promote their passions, ideas and works in an exciting new way.

Among the speakers was Diana Apperley, Bridgend Library Service's award-winning children's librarian, who said: "It was a wonderful opportunity to bring people together in a creative environment. A warm, friendly and supportive atmosphere. I really enjoyed listening to the other PechaKuchas. I was honoured to be asked to speak!"

Also speaking was local businessman, David Knight, of BlackBoxAv, who talked of his journey in product design, from Bridgend to London to New Zealand and, eventually, back to his home town.

He said: "PechaKucha is a great way of learning what other creative people are local to us. There are plenty in Bridgend. Let's hope we will see another good turn-out for the next event on August 15."

The next event is 'Bridgend Arts Goes to Market', a collaboration with The Rhiw Shopping Centre and Bridgend Indoor Market.

Free, and open to families, it aims to bring people back to the town centre and, specifically, back to the market.

"People talk about Bridgend as a 'market town'", says Bridgend Arts Co-Director, Harriet Hopkins, "but you speak to people about the market and they don't know what's in there, or they can't tell you the last time they walked through it.

"Our event will show people what they're missing by shopping out of town, and give them a glorious night of entertainment at the same time.

"We're really proud of what we've achieved so far" says Harriet, "It's an honour to be singled out as a potential inhabitant of the library space – we're here to make positive changes to the cultural landscape of our town, and a more permanent space to work from will help us to do that."

'Bridgend Arts Goes to Market' is a free event, on August 15 (6 – 9pm). With live music, an art stall for visitors to have a go, food tastings, demonstrations and discounts from traders. For more information, call 07916707245, or search Bridgend Arts on facebook to join the event group.

HH

Work starts on £470,000 'Wesley Centre' at Tondu

WORK began on Monday (August 19) on a project to transform Tondu Methodist Church, Maesteg Road, into a community resource for local organisations and groups to use throughout the week.

The £470,000 project will create 'The Wesley Centre', a social, cultural and educational hub for the village and surrounding area.

The church is the only public meeting-place in the village, and there is demand, not only for its existing large hall, but for a variety of different meeting spaces.

The centre will meet the need for a social, cultural and educational hub for a community that is being regenerated after a period of decline.

Although located inside a church building, the centre has no religious bias and will exist to meet the needs of community groups without prejudice to either secular or religious beliefs.

A new floor will be created and this will be split up into storage space, a gallery, and four flexible, warm and welcoming rooms for meetings, consultations and events.

A meeting room will also be created on the ground floor and the kitchen will be enlarged and upgraded. A new lift will enable wheelchair users, those with limited mobility, and parents and carers with prams to use the rooms. Rooflights will also be fitted, meaning that the second floor will be lit with natural light.

The building's important architectural features will be conserved and people will be able to learn about the extensive industrial heritage of Tondu.

The church anticipates that the 'Wesley Centre' will be used by a wide range of groups, including Relate counselling service, local choirs, the WI, Guides and other uniformed organisations, and support groups for a wide range of issues affecting people today, including debt and problems with mental health.

Funding for the work is coming from several sources, including £230,000 awarded through the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Facilities and Activities Programme.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £76,400 for conservation work and heritage-related activities and The Veolia Environmental Trust have awarded £39,000 through the Landfill Communities Fund for the electrical work. Other funding comes from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the James Pantyfedwen Foundation, the Welsh Church Act Fund, the Bridgend United Area of Churches and the Wales Synod of the Methodist Church.

The project was also awarded £39,000 by BCBC's reach rural development programme, through the rural development plan for Wales 2007-13, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Professor Jeffrey Jones of Tondu Methodist Church said: "It is great news that this long hoped-for project will start on August 12

."The 'Wesley Centre' will be at the heart of the village and will offer a convenient, comfortable, accessible and welcoming place for all, including elderly and disabled people, and it will enhance the physical and social environment.

"We hope that it will become a focus for both a growth in participation in community and educational activities, and support for marginalised and vulnerable sections of our society.

"We cannot wait to see it complete." **OB**

Motorcyclist was injured in crash

AT about 4.30pm on August 7, a serious collision occurred on the A473 Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, at its junction with Wyndham Crescent, involving a red-coloured Lifan motorcycle and a green-coloured Nissan Almera.

The rider was taken to Princess of Wales Hospital, with serious injuries.

South Wales Police are requesting anyone who witnessed the collision, or has any information, to contact 101 or Crimestoppers, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal over theft of property

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information about the whereabouts of a large amount of property stolen during a burglary.

The incident occurred sometime between 5.45pm on July 19 and 2.20pm on July 20 at Philip Avenue in Bridgend.

A 30-year-old man has been arrested and is currently on police bail while an investigation continues, it was reported.

The burglary resulted in more than 80 items of property being stolen, including televisions, jewellery, computers, telephones and cash.

Children's clothing, perfume, aftershave and other toiletries, including tooth brushes and disposable razors, were also taken.

PC Andrew Westlake of Bridgend Police Station said:

"A huge amount of property has been stolen during this burglary – the flat has been virtually stripped bare.

"We are appealing to anyone who has any information to contact the police.

"It is likely that the property could end up being offered for sale, so we would ask the public to be vigilant and report any suspicions to the police."

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Maesteg hostel plan is ruled out

PLANS to convert a former pub in Maesteg into a homeless hostel, have been turned down by a Welsh Government planning inspector.

The application, at Llwydarth Road, prompted a large number of letters of objection. Plans to convert the former pub into a 12-bed hostel were refused by Bridgend County Borough Council's planning committee.

It was then the subject of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate Wales, and this appeal was recently .dismissed.

The Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Ross Thomas, told The GEM: "I believe that the inspector has come to the correct conclusion in dismissing this appeal.

"The development would have been grossly out-of-keeping with its residential surroundings – but , more importantly, it would have had a detrimental effect on the privacy of its immediate neighbours, under the proposals to have windows directly overlooking their properties and rear gardens."

Nominations sought

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will host the BAVO Volunteer Achievement Awards on November 8 at St Mary's Hotel, Golf and Country Club in Pencoed.

The awards are designed to recognise and honour outstanding people and organisations that have made a significant contribution to our community during the past year. BAVO would like to encourage people to nominate individuals and groups who they believe have made a significant contribution to the community through volunteering.

Nomination categories are Befriending/mentoring volunteer award, Volunteer of the year under 25, Volunteer of the year 25 and over, Trustee of the year, Volunteer project of the year award, Environmental volunteer of the year award, Sports volunteer of the year award and Outstanding volunteer contribution award.

Closing date is 12 noon on Friday September 27. Further details are available on the volunteering section of www.bavo.org.uk. or call 01656 810400.

Who wants to build what and where?

*P W T Henry – **St Johns Church Churchyard, Newton, Porthcawl** – Fell and remove ash tree.*

*Greggs Plc – **8 Talbot Street, Maesteg** – Installation of new fascia and projecting signs.*

*Mr Stephen J Rudd – **The Old School House, School Terrace, North Cornelly** – En-suite bathroom to first floor bedroom over car port.*

*Mr P Meek – **5 South Parade, Maesteg** – Detached garage.*

*Mrs J M Lewis – **Caer Llysi Farmhouse, 193 Hendre Road, Pencoed** – Single storey extension.*

*Mrs A Gabriel – **63 Highfields, Brackla** – First floor extension to existing dwelling.*

*Mr A Smith – **9 Y Lan, Pencoed** – Dormer bedrooms to front and rear elevation.*

*Mr G Evans – **11 The Retreat, Porthcawl** – Vary condition 4 of consent P/11/203/FUL regarding bedroom and ensuite windows.*

*Mr and Mrs P Morgan – **14 Priory Oak, Brackla** – Single storey rear extension.*

*Mrs June Williams – **69 West Park Drive, Porthcawl** – Replacement porch to side and conservatory to rear.*

*Mr Blanche – **106 Maes Talcen, Brackla** – Conservatory to rear.*

*Mr S Knipe – **26 Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl** – Replace timber handrail to balcony.*

*Mrs Julie Thomas – **4 Hill Street, Ogmore Vale** – External wall insulation.*

*Mr Morgan – **137 Mill View, Maesteg** – Construct habitable room in roofspace with front and rear dormer and raised roof line.*

*Mrs K E Davison – **12 Pangbourne Close, Porthcawl** – Single storey rear extension.*

*Mr A Ali – **52 Parcau Avenue, Bridgend** – Dormer loft extension, single storey rear extension, new roof over garage.*

*Mr N Hegarty – **36 Caroline Street, Bridgend** – New shopfront.*

*Rhondda Cynon Taff Regeneration and Planning Division – **Land at Cae Mawr Industrial Estate, Treorchy** – Erect A1 retail foodstore with petrol station, B1/B2/B8 f/space and associated works and outline for B1/B2/B8.*

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Lifeboat memorial highlighted by QR codes at Sker Point

WALKERS at Sker Point can now use modern technology to find and read about the Mumbles lifeboat tragedy of 1947.

A memorial to the lifeboat crew and sailors who drowned – 47 in total – on that stormy night is located on the rocks below the Wales Coast Path. However, many people walk by without realising that the memorial is there.

Now the 'HistoryPoints' information project, with the help of the RNLI and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), has provided QR barcodes which are displayed on a waymarker post beside the path.

By scanning the codes, anyone with a smartphone or tablet device can download and read a concise account of the loss of the freighter Samtampa and the Mumbles lifeboat, including the names of the lifeboat crew.

Even for those who don't carry such a device, the title printed on the plaque may alert them to the fact that a memorial exists in the vicinity.

Rhodri Clark, editor of *HistoryPoints.org*, said: "The memorial at Sker Point is a reminder of the risks taken by lifeboat volunteers when people need help at sea.

"Now modern technology allows people to read the story on their mobile screens, and perhaps pause for reflection, while they look over the spot where the upturned lifeboat was found."

The information is contained on a page on the *HistoryPoints.org* website which anyone can read at home on their personal computer. The page is part of the HistoryPoints smartphone tour along the entire 870-mile Wales Coast Path, featuring more than 230 locations.

Each featured location is mapped, and this could help people find their way to the Sker Point memorial.

HistoryPoints has placed QR codes at every lifeboat station in Wales. The idea of featuring the memorial came from Porthcawl lifeboat crew. Ian Stroud, volunteer press officer at Porthcawl RNLI, said: "The memorial site has been maintained by both Porthcawl RNLI and Porthcawl Coastguard Unit for many years and we have held several memorial services at the site.

"At low water on big tides, wreckage from the Samtampa can still be seen in the rocks in a SSW direction of the memorial. The ruggedness of the coastline here, especially when storms are blowing, makes you realise the bravery of the Mumbles lifeboat crew who attempted to rescue the sailors on board the stricken Samtampa on that fateful night."

Anyone scanning the QR codes at Mumbles lifeboat station, or reading the station's page on their PC, can follow a link to the page about the Sker Point memorial, and vice versa. This should further raise awareness of the memorial.

The HistoryPoints QR codes at Sker Point were kindly installed by Bridgend County Borough Council, which has also placed HistoryPoints QR codes on display at the nearby Kenfig nature reserve to enable walkers to read about the reserve and the town buried by sand.

Members of local Lions clubs with Charlotte Wadley and her new laptop.

Local Lions Clubs combine to help support Charlotte

EARLIER this year the Lions Club of Bridgend received a request from the Sequal Trust for help in funding replacement computer equipment for Charlotte Wadley (29) who lives with her parents in Cross Inn, near Pontyclun.

Charlotte has a range of special needs and relies heavily on a computer to keep in contact with the outside world. Without it, she would lose a great deal of her independence and quality of life.

The Sequal Trust aims to provide people who are severely disabled by speech, movement or learning difficulties, with the means to communicate, helping them to lead independent lives and become a more active member of society.

The Bridgend Lions' welfare officer saw an opportunity to combine with the neighbouring club, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions, and consequently the two clubs decided to share the cost of replacing Charlotte's computer.

Charlotte took delivery of her new laptop in late July and on Wednesday, August 7, the presidents of the two Lions Clubs paid her a visit to see how she was getting on.

Charlotte's parents explained that her old computer was limited in what it could do and, being a desktop, Charlotte was tied to one room in the house.

She can now use the new laptop anywhere in the house and will also be able to take it with her when the family go on holiday to Scotland.

Charlotte enjoys digital photography, cinema, particularly Disney, and theatre. She also uses Skype to keep in contact with family in New Zealand.

During the visit, she showed the Lions a Cineworld website she uses. She said how much she enjoys cinema and also said that next week she will be putting photos on to the laptop.

The Lions were able to clearly see the tremendous difference that being able to effectively use the internet and tools, such as Skype, can make to Charlotte's life.

This is just one of example of what Lions, who are all volunteers, do to support people in the local community.

If you would like to be a part of it, call us on 0845 833 6763, or Google our website.

DE

Blind drivers try Llandow racing test...

ABOVE: Guide dog owner Sue Taylor of Broadlands gears up for the Blind Drive challenge at Llandow.

A GUIDE dog owner from Bridgend is gearing up for a driving event with a difference at Llandow Race Circuit on Sunday, September 29.

Sue Taylor, of Broadlands, will join other blind and partially-sighted people as they bid to manoeuvre dual-controlled vehicles around the famous circuit as part of Guide Dogs Cymru's Blind Drive 2013.

Sighted participants can also sign up for the challenge – with the twist that they must do it blindfold. All vehicles will be provided with a qualified BSM driving instructor, talking each participant through the route and explaining the controls.

Mrs Taylor, who lost her sight due to detached retinas, said: "I haven't driven for 15 years, so it's a daunting prospect.

"Handing in my licence to the DVLA was one of the hardest things I've ever done. It meant surrendering another little bit of my independence, and I did cry.

"Getting behind the wheel of a car again will be a real milestone, but my husband Don won't let me practise in his!"

Everyone taking part is asked to raise a minimum of £50 sponsorship for Guide Dogs Cymru, with a special prize for the person who raises the most.

There will also be the chance to drive a slalom track, with a prize for the person judged to have performed best, plus a blindfold reversing challenge.

For budding racers, there's a Young Person's Driving Experience for anyone tall enough to sit in a car and reach the pedals, again under dual controls.

It promises to be an adrenaline-fuelled day, with a bouncy castle, stalls and raffle. Places are limited, so telephone the Cardiff Mobility Team on 0845 372 7405 to register for a place, or e-mail cardiff@guide-dogs.org.uk

A sombre farewell to Sandville's old friend

Plaque recording Bishop Roy blessing, Sandville Court June 14, 1991.

Left to right: Rev Derek Belcher, Sister Gwyneth Poacher and Bishop Roy.

THE Sandville has lost an old friend with the passing away of Bishop Roy Thomas Davies.

The former Bishop of Llandaff, who died on Wednesday, August 7, aged 79, blessed Sandville Court when it was opened on June 14 1991, 22 years ago, and he will be greatly missed by all at the Sandville Foundation.

KEITH E MORGAN

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find good homes for dogs at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

BO NEEDS YOU!

BO is a 9-year-old terrier cross, who like most terriers, is a bright and active little dog, and enjoys games and training to keep her active and happy.

She would like to be the only dog in the home, and would prefer to live with adults only.

It will take a few visits for new owners to earn her trust, but with that extra effort, you will be rewarded with a bright and loyal little dog.

For more information about Bo, telephone 01656 725219, or call in to Dogs Trust in Bridgend; we are open 12 – 4pm every day, except Monday, and open until 8pm on Wednesdays.

Busy times ahead – after the break!

COITY WI seems to be riding high recently, with so many successful events taking place.

At the July meeting, president Lyn Griffiths brought us up to date with the variety of activities enjoyed by the members over the last month.

The craft class met at the home of Teri Moore, where Teri introduced them to the skill of the potter's wheel.

The results were spectacular, and we look forward to seeing the finished products.

Some ladies went to the House of Fraser in Cardiff, where they were treated to morning coffee, demonstrations and a make-over.

The Coity fete was blessed with a beautiful day, and the WI stall made its usual happy contribution.

The Glamorgan Show, held at North Cornelly, was a highlight of the month, and some of our members did very well.

Congratulations were offered to Mair Feeley, who achieved a highly commended for her watercolour, and to Menna Price and Rita Williams, who did very well in the co-operative class.

Members are now looking forward to their August trip to Highclere Castle.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the many events anticipated for the autumn, which include a visit to Abbey-cwm-hir, the autumn council meeting at Port Talbot, where the speakers include Wynne Evans and Mr Peter Bowen-Simpkins, and the area carol festival at St David's Hall, featuring the WI choir and Only Men Aloud.

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on September 25 at 7.30pm at Gilead Chapel, when Mr David Salter will speak on 'What the postman saw'.

ES

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Raising awareness of fight against human trafficking

Riaz Hassan (regional community cohesion co-ordinator for Bridgend, Swansea and NPT), Stephen Chapman, Coun Mel Nott, Deputy Leader David Sage, and Kim Williamson (CPS).

HUMAN trafficking has been highlighted at an awareness-raising session hosted by BCBC – as part of a regional community cohesion programme.

Organisations, including Women's Aid, Safe from Slavery, Wales and West Housing Association, United Welsh Housing Association, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire, BCBC, the Bridgend community cohesion group, and officers from Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot councils, attended the event, led by Wales anti-human trafficking coordinator Stephen Chapman, and the Crown Prosecution Service's Kim Williamson.

The workshops form part of the Welsh Government's commitment to supporting victims of human trafficking and have been designed to improve understanding of this growing crime.

Opening the event, council leader Mel Nott, said: "I'm encouraged that so many local organisations are committed to learning more about this terrible crime. I think it's fair to say there is a lack of understanding about human trafficking so

"I'm pleased that Welsh Government and the Crown Prosecution Service are delivering these important sessions and helping to make individuals and organisations feel better equipped to recognise and report incidents, as well as provide intelligence on those responsible for trafficking.

"We can feel proud that the Welsh Government is prioritising this issue and committing to providing the best possible support to victims of human trafficking.

"Human trafficking might feel like something that goes on in other places, in films or on the news.

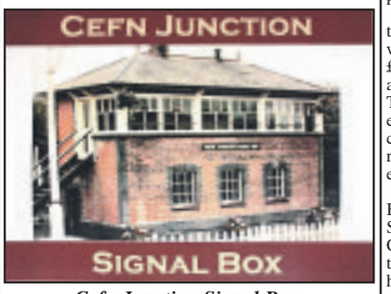
"In fact, it's an issue which is all around us and could impact on each of our communities so we must pledge to fight a truly terrible crime together," Coun Nott concluded.

Praising Bridgend for hosting the session and for its turn-out, Stephen Chapman commented: "It is the Welsh Government's aim to make Wales hostile to human trafficking and to provide the best possible support to victims who have been trafficked.

"I'm very pleased to see the inspirational leadership from Mel Nott and Bridgend County Borough Council in raising awareness of the issue in the borough.

"I'm looking forward to working with the council and its partners in combatting this heinous crime."

Steam returns to Cefn – with a retro fayre!



Cefn Junction Signal Box.

SATURDAY, August 17, sees the first Rail and Retro fayre organised by 'Y Cefn Gwyrdd' at their historic headquarters, Cefn Junction Signal Box, Cefn Cribwr.

The 'Rail' aspect sees the upper floor of the signal box displaying a model railway layout of Bridgend Station, circa 1959.

This has been provided by the Porthcawl Railway Club and is well worth seeing.

Visitors will have the opportunity to discuss the techniques of building such a layout with members of the club.

Steam will also be returning to Cefn Junction, but on a smaller scale.

The Porthcawl club has recently bought 100 feet of 5-inch gauge railway track.

This will be laid out at Cefn Junction on the site of the old Dyffryn Llynfi Tramway and club chairman Nick Moody will be driving a train carrying children along this railway line, pulled by his 2-6-0 5 inch gauge miniature steam locomotive.

The 'Retro' aspect will be a static display of old and vintage cars and other vehicles supplied by members of the Glamorgan Iron Horse Society, as well as an exhibition of railway and other memorabilia in the Cefn Junction signal box itself.

All are welcome. Entry to the fayre is free and there is adequate car parking, which is also free.

There will be a nominal charge for rides on the miniature steam railway and for cream teas.

The Rail and Retro fayre will be located at the Cefn Junction signal box, Bedford Road, Cefn Cribwr, CF32 0BW.

Visitors travelling along Cefn Road (B4281) from the Bridgend direction should turn right at the brown historic sign for Bedford Park (opposite the Three Horse Shoes inn).

Those coming from the Kenfig Hill direction should turn left and then follow Bedford Road all the way to the bottom of the hill, before turning off left for the car park.

Dunk your biscuit – and wrap up funds for charity!

THERE'S no shame in being caught with your fingers in the cookie jar in Bridgend county borough – as dunking your favourite biscuit has become as good as dipping into your purse for a local domestic abuse charity.

ABOVE: Get your hands in the biscuit jar - and help a worthwhile cause!

With the best of summer now over, Bridgend Women's Aid is encouraging people to ditch the diet for a digestive, as it has discovered a new way to turn biscuits into big bucks.

The domestic abuse charity has signed up to TerraCycle's 'Biscuit Wrapper Roundup Collection Contest', which rewards schools, charities and non-profit organisations for collecting both multipack and individual biscuit wrappers.

At the end of the contest, the top 20 collectors will win a share of £1,000. All entrants will also snap up two TerraCycle points for each biscuit wrapper they collect, which they can redeem for one penny each.

Kathryn Fox, Bridgend Women's Aid's Support in the Community Co-ordinator, said: "Everyone's heard the saying 'one person's rubbish is another person's treasure', but this contest really takes the biscuit. It's a fabulous way to enjoy biscuits guilt-free, raise money for charity and contribute to saving the environment.

"As a small, local charity we're always looking for innovative ways to fundraise because we struggle to compete with the bigger charities.

"We wouldn't encourage anyone to stop being healthy and start eating more biscuits, we're just asking people to be mindful of what they do with their empty packets. More than 100,000 people live in the county borough, so if everyone gave us just one biscuit wrapper each we'd raise well over £2,000, which would be a huge boost."

TerraCycle, which transforms the biscuit wrappers into everyday items including watering cans, garden benches and waste bins, is running the fundraising scheme in partnership with Mcvitie's to minimise the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

Stephen Clarke, Country Manager for TerraCycle UK, said: "TerraCycle is proud to partner with McVitie's on the Biscuit Wrapper Brigade which, for the first time, provides communities with the opportunity to join together to recycle used biscuit wrappers which would otherwise end up in local landfill.

"We encourage the people of Bridgend to really get behind Bridgend Women's Aid's efforts in the Biscuit Wrapper Roundup Collection Contest to not only make a difference to the local environment but also to raise money for a worthy local charity."

Mrs Fox added: "While it's great that we've found a quirky way to raise money while enjoying a treat, it's important that we remember the serious reason we need to raise these funds.

"One woman in four in the UK will be a victim of domestic violence during their lifetime, regardless of social class, cultural background, education, age or sexual orientation.

"This fundraising will help us to continue supporting women, children and young people in the county borough who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse."

If you are experiencing, have experienced or are worrying about a friend or relative who is experiencing domestic abuse or sexual violence, call the All Wales Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Helpline for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 0808 80 10 800.

You can contact Bridgend Women's Aid directly by phoning 01656 766139, or by calling into the office at 36a Caroline Street, Bridgend; in an emergency call 999. **LF**

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Barry Town United in historic victory!

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

BARRY TOWN UNITED has won a historic battle to return to the Welsh League.

A legal judgement at Cardiff High Court said the Football Association of Wales (FAW) should have backed one of its own committee's recommendations that the club be allowed to join the league's division three.

The Football Association of Wales said it accepted the decision taken by the court.

A spokesman confirmed: "The association will be acting upon the recommendation made. A FAW council meeting will take place on Wednesday."

Supporters will expect that meeting to rubber stamp a return to the Welsh league. They will then be able to claim victory in a campaign that started late last season when the club was withdrawn from the league by Stuart Lovering.

The legal dispute was a 'high stakes' victory for the campaign – defeat could have meant being condemned to local parks football.

Local MP Alun Cairns said he was thrilled the supporters had triumphed.

"Having worked closely with the supporters' committee for more than a year, I am truly delighted that they won the case.

"I want to pay tribute to their efforts and commitment. Many would have given up."

Mr Cairns said he believed Barry Town supporters had been treated poorly by the FAW but their commitment to the cause had seen them through.

"I am personally aware of the hours and hours they have spent planning, organising, raising funds, lobbying and a host of other activities.

"Having come to know them well over recent times, I know the club is in safe hands.

"Last October, I organised a meeting with the Welsh FA and the supporters' committee and, at that time, we were desperate to get to the end of the season.

"We also acknowledged then that a drop of two divisions would be worth it – if that gave them control of the club.

"Sadly, the owner withdrew the club from the league, which meant we had to fight for our place. Last week's victory has given us that."

Mr Cairns said he believed the club had solid foundations for the future.

"The most important facts now are that Barry Town continues and its future is secure in the hands of supporters committed to the club.

"I for one will be turning up regularly to Jenner Park. The footballing campaign for promotion is just starting."

The local Assembly Member Jane Hutt praised the supporters' campaign too.

"This IS brilliant news! Congratulations to the supporters for their fantastic campaign which has saved Barry Town Football Club and put them back at the forefront of Welsh football!"

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson, who was a former Barry Town reporter for The GEM, said the legal victory paved the way for a new era of Barry being represented in the Welsh League.

"It's great news that the club won their case against the FAW and will be playing in Welsh League Division Three next season.

"The court case was very tense and it could have gone in either direction. Listening to the judge's summary, it really was a game of two halves.

"This decision marks a new era in the history of football in Barry and, with Barry Town United taking over the organisation of the Vale Football Academy this season, there can be a consistent approach to football development locally with the club supporting football at all levels."

Coun Johnson said he was particularly looking forward to clashes against other teams in the Vale.

"There will be some juicy local derbies against Rhoose and Llantwit Major in the league next year for Vale football fans to look forward to, and Barry Town United certainly won't have it all their own way."

Centre opens up for over-50s

PEOPLE over 50 can make friends and take part in activities at Bridgend Carers' Centre's community café every Wednesday from 12.30pm – 3.30pm.

Run as part of the Big Lottery funded Community Companions befriending for over-50s programme, the café is in the Bridgend Carers Centre, 87 Park Street, Bridgend.

Each week there is a mixture of information sessions and activities including sequence dancing, armchair exercises, quizzes, arts and crafts.

Special agencies also visit each month offering individual support and advice on finances and domestic issues.

The Community Companions over-50s befriending scheme is co-ordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary organisations including Bridgend County Borough Council.

Admission is free of charge. For further details, call 01656 658471.

Local campaigners celebrate the arrival of Wales' first robot surgeon

by PHILIP IRWIN

CAMPAIGNERS at a local charity are celebrating after the Welsh Government (WG) announced that £2.15 million had been put aside to bring robotic surgery to Wales.

Prostate Cymru launched the campaign in earnest last year at the Llandow National Eisteddfod, and after keeping up a high-profile campaign, they were rewarded when the WG allocated the cash from its Health Technology Fund.

The first Welsh robot, which makes a big difference to the accuracy of a number of procedures, including prostate surgery, will be installed in the University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff.

Prostate Cymru grew out of another prostate charity, GLAZE, which was founded by Ray and Lyn Murray, from Cowbridge, and Andy Thomas, consultant in urology at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Sadly, Ray Murray died in June, and failed to see the charity achieve its aim. Angharad Jones, a spokeswoman for Prostate Cymru, said: "Earlier this month, as part of our campaigning, we presented a petition of over 2,000 signatures to the Petitions Committee of the Welsh Assembly.

"As a charity we have worked tirelessly to bring a robotic unit to Wales – after all, there are over 40 in England.

"However, this success is tinged with sadness as our founder, Ray Murray, who worked tirelessly for this cause, did not live to see this moment.

"We know, however, that this campaign was successful because of his irrepressible nature, his charm and his can-do attitude.

"We also know that he would be proud of what his work has achieved. He was a true inspiration, and this robot is a symbol of his hard work, dedication and enthusiasm."

She said that the group will continue fundraising to help with the ancillary costs of the machine, such as training. They will also carry on raising awareness about the machine and the condition.

She added: "We would like to thank everyone who has supported us, especially Alun Cairns MP, Andrew RT Davies AM, Byron Davies AM,and everyone who signed the petition or donated."

Eluned Parrott, the Lib-Dem AM for South Wales Central said: "I am extremely proud that the Welsh Liberal Democrats are once again making a difference to the lives of the people of south Wales.

"We proposed the idea of a Health Technologies Fund as we wanted to offer patients better access to innovative treatments that were not routinely available on the Welsh NHS."

The Health Minister Mark Drakeford said: "Investment in innovation is essential if we are to achieve our aim of safe, sustainable and high quality health services for Wales."

Could you be a Foster Carer and make a difference?

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Carer and want to find out more, then why not come to one of our open information days:

Tuesday 27th August 2pm - 8pm
at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club, Pisgah Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend CF33 6BU

or

Wednesday 28th August 2pm - 8pm
at Bridgend RFC, Brewery Fields, Tondu Road, Bridgend CF31 4JE

Help us to transform a child's life.

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Call:
0845 434 5768

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ISIS aims to develop 'life-enhancing' skills

Isis seeks to develop creativity through art, movement and life coaching.

ISIS is a new Porthcawl-based group which formed out of a common interest in providing positive life-enhancing experiences for families in the local area.

At present, the group consists of Cate Warlow, Katheryn Jones and Siobhan Grice. Cate and Kathryn are currently setting up their Reiki business called Mother Gaia Reiki and Siobhan has been running her business Freshstart for the past three years working with children and adults in schools, community groups and 1-2-1 to develop their creativity through art, movement and life coaching.

The first event on July 28 proved to be a great success, with stalls and workshops running throughout the day.

Freshstart began with a warm-up to dance yourself awake followed by the local community drumming group WOMP.

The community choir which Laura Bradshaw leads in Cardiff, Barry and Betws, entertained the public with a range of songs from around the world.

The Fairtrade Cafe provided refreshments and children made their own flags illustrating what made them happy.

As there was no funding for the day all those who took part did so voluntarily.

Cadets discovered a great deal about the wonderful contribution dogs and horses make to detecting crime and maitaining order.

Kenfig Hill Cadets in the dog house!

CADETS from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron recently visited the mounted police and dogs section at the police headquarters in Bridgend.

On arrival, the cadets were met by Officer Rick Lewis and taken to see some of the police horses. Sully was the heaviest horse of six on site, weighing near 850 kilos.

When the mounted police require a new police horse, they look at advertisements in local newspapers or on the internet. Their criteria for finding a suitable candidate are that the horse must be four to six years old, have a suitable height, size and have a good attitude and temperament.

The training period for each individual horse is approximately 16 weeks. There are six full time mounted police officers, who are supported by a number of reserve officers.

After the cadets had finished bombarding Officer Lewis with questions and queries, they moved on to meet the police dogs. At the kennels, there can be at any one time up to 62 police dogs. In total there are 46 handlers and each handler is required to work with a minimum of two dogs.

Three breeds of dog are trained on the site; German Shepherd dogs are used for general purpose; Labradors are used as search dogs; and spaniels are used as drug, explosive and money detecting dogs.

Each breed of dog has to be trained in a certain way to suit the jobs they will be given so the time taken for training varies.

The training for search dogs takes around six weeks, training for a general purpose dog takes around 13 weeks. The dogs can only work for a limited period of time.

General purpose dogs can work until they are seven years old and search dogs can work until they are 10 years old.

The cadets thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were very eager to complete work experience at the mounted police and dog site in the near future.

The visit was arranged by Sgt (ATC) K Gould and the report of the visit was written by Cadet Sergeant Jordan Norris. Sgt Gould has arranged for a slate plaque to be presented at a later date to the section to commemorate their visit.

Lindsay Thomas (Secretary, 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn Civilian Committee).

Scott Wroe Hearing Centre

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Mr Bartley Phillips

"The aids have given me a new lease of life. I can now hear people on the phone and also background noises. My children, friends and relatives cannot get over the change in me. I wish I'd done it years ago."

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Scott Wroe Hearing Centre

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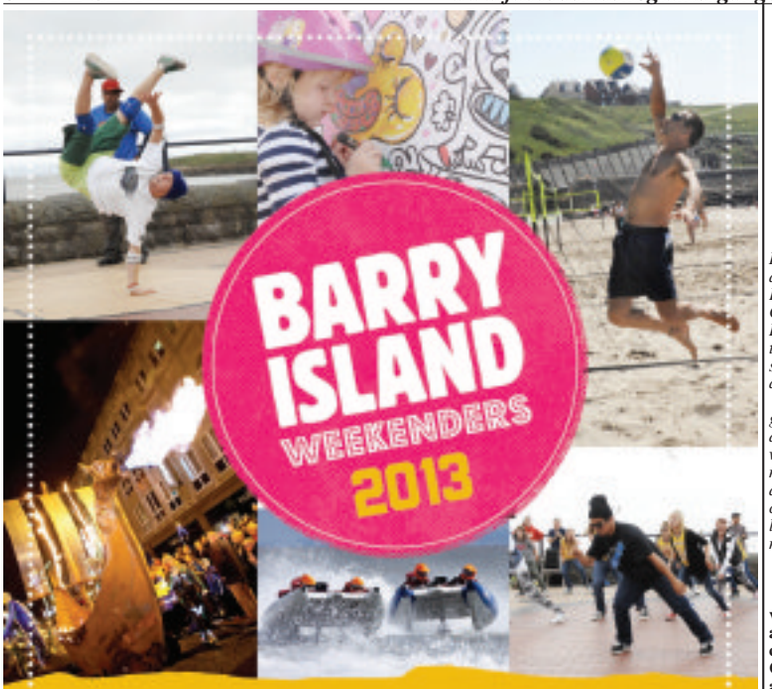

FREE FAMILY EVENTS AT BARRY ISLAND

17 & 18 August
Seaside Sport Weekender

Enjoy a host of sports by the sea. Take part in Beach Volleyball, Disability Sports and Beach Tennis. Try your skills on the surf simulator and the climbing wall and explore the Play Village.

The England Beach Soccer Team will also be on the beach.

The weekend will end with Zumba on the Prom with Andrea on Sunday at 5pm.

24 & 25 August
Cinema by the Sea Weekender

Barry Island Gardens will host two nights of classic cinema:

Saturday from 8.30pm
BACK TO THE FUTURE

Sunday from 8.30pm
GREASE SING-A-LONG

Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy some music before the film starts. Join in the fun and fancy dress is encouraged!

Please note
Barry Island is an Alcohol Free Zone and no alcohol will permitted at the above events. Also no naked flames including garden candles, barbeques or similar will be allowed onto the gardens during the Cinema weekender

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

All events take place along the prom or Island Gardens. Please note events may change at short notice. For more information please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com

Planning a new school musical – HOW DO YOU DO IT?

by ANNA BONET

RECENTLY, The GEM asked a pupil at Porthcawl Comprehensive, Anna Bonet, to take a behind the scenes look at how a school puts together its annual show.

The school has a great reputation for its drama, so Anna's brief was to find out how it maintains its position, and to look at the practical and financial problems involved in planning a show.

This is her report:

MONTHS of hard work, commitment and organisation precede Porthcawl Comprehensive's annual school production – always a highly-anticipated musical, staged each February in The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Since the first production of *Oliver* in 1979, Porthcawl Comp has built up a reputation for outstanding young talent.

The school's most recent show, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, proved thoroughly enjoyable through its extremely modern and unconventional take on the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life.

One of the school's most renowned shows was the more classic *Les Misérables* in 2011, receiving a well-deserved standing ovation every night.

Being the former school to both Ruth Jones, star of *Stella*, and actor and comedian Rob Brydon, the current pupils prepare for each show in an inspiring atmosphere.

The efforts begin as early as September, with auditions and casting taking place, then swiftly followed by regular rehearsals.

When it comes to putting on a school show, there's a huge amount to consider other than just the performance, from set and costume, to the technicalities of the light and sound.

Without the dedication of all those involved, it would not be possible to be executed with such a skill; a skill like no other.

Mr Joe Smith of the drama department spoke to me about what goes into staging a school show.

Q. *How do you go about choosing a school show?*

A: It's a very complicated process. It's important to think about the casting, so for example we could only do a show that has many male main parts on a year where we feel there are enough boys to fill them.

ABOVE: Mr Joe Smith, of Porthcawl Comprehensive School's drama department.

We always keep the pupils in mind, as they vary each year. We also have to think about what local theatre groups have put on recently, as we couldn't do a show that had been done in the same venue a few months back, as the public are not as likely to buy tickets.

Although we run the shows on a not-for-profit basis, money is an important aspect when choosing, in terms of costs. We wouldn't be able to put on a production that requires a huge amount being spent on costumes or sets.

Q: *How important is the popularity of the show?*

A: It depends. It's not just about how popular it is with the public, it's about whether or not the kids will have an interest in it.

Often, if it is one that is very popular, more will be encouraged to get involved, which is great. But we are willing to take risks, and if we know it will be exciting for the pupils, it doesn't matter about its popularity, as the tickets will sell themselves.

Q: *Is there an aspect that you focus on the most, such as the acting or the music?*

A: The aspect we focus on the most is the kids. We like to make sure that they are getting as much out of it as possible, that not only are they being a part of something enjoyable, but they are actually learning something at the same time.

Q: *How do you go about the set and the costumes? Do you fit what you have to each show or buy it new each year?*

A: We reuse and recycle what have already where we can. We are lucky to have support from the Technology department in school; DT and Art will help build and design the set that we need, as well as Textiles helping with costumes.

However, if there is something specific to the show that we feel is very important and we can't make use of our resources, then we'll then go ahead and buy it.

Q: *The show is always very close to the January exams, how do you deal with this?*

A: It's always a difficult period, but not unmanageable. We deal with it through a lot of communication, just by knowing when and who might miss rehearsals.

The exams are very important, but it is about having a balance and providing pupils with ways of furthering their education.

Q: *How often do you have pupils being successful whereby they go on to drama schools?*

A: Out of all those involved, it's only a small fraction that go on to study it. But the school shows aren't just about how many it will make into professionals, it's about having something that everyone can get involved with and be excited by, whether they will turn out to be the next big actors or not.

Q: *Do you have any ideas for next year's show?*

A: Yes we do, and it's being announced soon - so watch this space!

GEM NOTE: *Shortly after this interview was conducted, the school announced that it will be performing Guys and Dolls, from January 29 to February 1, in the Grand Pavilion.*

Family support scheme in line for top award

A BCBC project which helps local families, while reducing costs to public services, is in the running for an award.

Connecting Families has been shortlisted by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) in its best partnership working initiative category.

This recognises the support given to families to help change lives.

Working in partnership with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) Health Board, Hafan Cymru, Jobcentre Plus, South Wales Police and Wales Probation Trust, the Connecting Families project supports vulnerable and complex local families who place the greatest demands on services.

As well as offering help and support, the service has made savings of nearly £2m since it was launched in August 2011.

Last month Connecting Families made the finals of the Bevan Prize for Health and Wellbeing for making an outstanding contribution to the health and wellbeing of families.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Connecting Families is an invaluable service and I'm pleased that it has been shortlisted for another prestigious award.

"Since it was launched two years ago, the team have achieved significant results, preventing 54 children from needing foster care and allowing them to remain with their families in a safe and supported way.

"The team are truly worthy of this recognition, not least for the important contribution they are making to vulnerable families in Bridgend county borough. The success to date is proof that intervention does work and can produce really positive results. I wish them all the best for the awards ceremony on September 5 in Liverpool."

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: *tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk*

Spelling bee

BRYNTEG Comprehensive recently hosted a spelling bee competition for pupils in year-7, when 11 pupils from Brynteg, Bryntirion and Pencoed Comprehensive Schools attended the event.

A teacher from each school for that year – Mrs Powell, Miss Rimmer and Mr Lillford – acted as judges and Mrs Burgess, the competition organiser, was the pronouncer.

Each pupil was given a difficult word to spell. If they spelt it correctly a bell would be rung and if they got it wrong the pealing of a gong would be heard.

The two finalists were Rhys Coates (Bryntirion) and Evan Laidler of Brynteg. Evan eventually went on to win the competition after spelling the word 'guitar.'

Poet Rhian Edwards presented the trophies to the finalists and certificates to the runners-up.

Mrs Burgess commented: "Bridgend area certainly has some superb spellers, and we hope that the event will be even bigger next year."

Remembrance Garden

I ATTENDED a service to mark the garden's opening in the grounds of St David's Church, Maesteg.

Also present were Huw Irranca-Davies MP and the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Ross Thomas, who must be one of the youngest mayors ever in the area.

The gardens were the result of a campaign and fundraising by Maesteg British Legion over three years.

It is intended for use by local people who have lost members of their family in world conflicts.

The service was conducted by Rev Geraldine Blyth, after an introduction by Mr Alan Lloyd, chairman of the British Legion. The standard bearers and bugler were local cadets.

Wreaths were laid by Mr Bill Evans of the Royal British Legion and the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Ross Thomas, on behalf of Maesteg Town Council, followed by members of the public.

The service concluded with the two national anthems and a short prayer.

Aberkenfig & District WI

MEMBERS submitted 13 entries to the Glamorgan Federation of Womens' Institutes Glamorgan Show on July 27 in North Cornelly Community Centre.

There was fierce competition and the institute had a third place by president Eunice Williams (with a handmade silver pendant). Irene Burgess had highly commended for her plaited loaf of bread.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig and District WI will be at 2pm on September 11, when the speaker will be Mike Wilcock, a former manager of C & A Stores.

The competition will be for a small item beginning with the letter 'T'.

The branch meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

Contact Dilys Mitchell on 01656 725399, or www.cobwebs for more information.

Opera outreach

MAESTEG Amateur Operatic Society is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and its officials will be out in force this Saturday (August 17), drumming up support for its annual concert in Maesteg Town Hall, on October 23–26.

They will be present at Garw Valley carnival (10am–4pm) and also selling goods in a boot sale, on behalf of cancer research, in the car park at Tesco Maesteg from 10am to 1pm.

New school

Evan Laidler receiving the trophy from Rhian Edwards for winning the spelling bee competition.

COLEG Cymunedol Y Dderwen is the name of the new secondary school for pupils from the Garw, Ogmore and Gateway region of the Valleys.

The name was chosen in a competition by present day pupils who will be taught in the new school.

It is hoped in time that it will have a full complement of 1,570 pupils, and will have an intake of approximately 1,490 when it opens next month.

The building will also become the hub of the local community.

There is a wing where local organisations can hold meetings or functions, and it has facilities for disabled people.

It also has a hairdressing section, where the public can act as models for up-and-coming trainee hairdressers, and will also available for use by trained hairdressers.

A fully-equipped musical rehearsal area with recording facilities, will be available for use by the public.

Sports facilities include two rugby pitches, two football pitches, and an all-weather 3G pitch.

School leavers' concert

I RECENTLY attended the leavers' assembly at Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangeinor, which was in the form of a concert, written and performed by the pupils in their final year.

The children had co-ordinated a series of dance and song routines, and dressed in costumes reminiscent of each decade from 1950 to the present day.

'Thankful Village' Colwinston makes television news

'A THANKFUL VILLAGE' is the description given to the handful of communities who sent men to war without suffering a casualty.

World War I took a dreadful toll on life and only 51 villages qualify for the description, while 14 villages are 'doubly Thankful', having also welcomed all their men safely back from World War Two.

Colwinston sent 23 men to World War I and proudly displays a plaque in the church porch listing their names. Many people pass it without appreciating its unique significance.

Unfortunately, four local men did not return from World War Two.

The seeds of a unique motor cycle journey originated while Medwyn Parry was working in Colwinston.

A small group from Aberystwyth and District Motor Cycle Action Group travelled to the three 'Thankful Villages' in Wales – Llanfihangel y Creuddyn near Aberystwyth, Herbrandston near Milford Haven, and Colwinston. After completing their journey, they wanted to visit all 51 villages on a nine-day epic journey, commencing on July 27 and ending on August 4 at Llanfihangell y Creuddyn – 2,500 miles later.

In the process, the motorcyclists raised £51,000 for the Royal British Legion Association on their 51-stop motorcycle marathon.

(In Colwinston, the presentation of a commemorative plaque at the church porch required careful planning, as the wedding of Cindy Marie Stokes to David Huw Thomas was taking place at the same time!)

Assembled guests included Alun Cairns MP; the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson and her consort Mrs Jayne Norman; Geoff Bates and Ed Lewis, chairman and vice-chairman of Colwinston Community Council.

Relatives of men who died in World War Two were also guests: James Prichard, Mrs Marion Thomas and Mrs Sheila Madge. A contingent of the local Girl Guides group were also present.

James Prichard and son Kyffin received the plaque as second and third generations of Major Hubert de Burgh Prichard.

TV crews recorded the event and the village featured widely on the news channels, along with the wedding group.

Bride Cindy arrived in a two-horse drawn landau, and as the service began, the plaque presentation took place outside the porch.

Cindy became the first bride to feature on national television at St Michael's Church, as she walked to the church on the arm of her father Roy!

The motor cyclists later left for their next Thankful Village – Upper Slaughter in Gloucestershire.

'Thankful survivors' of World War 1: *A W Arthur, E A Goulden, T Morgan, J W Arthur, D Hopkins, W Morris, W Arthur, R Hopkins, H C Prichard, W D Arthur, W Hopkins, O Stephens, O T Arthur, W Jacks, H Short, D David, D Kemp, E Thomas, I David, B Morgan, W Thomas, E R Elward and J Morgan.*

JL

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Airport shuttle welcomed

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, has welcomed a new express bus service from Cardiff Airport to the city centre and has said that getting the infrastructure right is "crucial if Cardiff is to compete with its Bristol rival".

It was a "sensible move that will make access to routes easier".

But the Conservative leader expressed concern that the loss of the X91 service could lead to inconvenience for some passengers, given that the shuttle bus was likely to be more expensive and to follow a different route.

Building society gives local charities a boost

by PHILIP IRWIN

RIGHT: Rebecca Parke of Macmillan, pictured with Jon Tucker, collected almost £1,000 for the charity.

THREE local charities were invited to Cowbridge last week to share £1,000, courtesy of the Yorkshire Building Society's 'Charity Choices' campaign.

The YBS Cowbridge branch manager, Jon Tucker, explained: "Our members were asked to vote for charities that could benefit from our fund, which is organised on a national basis.

"Our branch had £1,000 available to donate and, after the votes were counted, Ty Hafan, Action for Children and the Dogs Trust were the beneficiaries."

Ty Hafan received £500, £ 300 went to Action for Children, and the Dogs Trust received £200.

Jon Tucker had another charitable donation to make on the day, and this was to Macmillan nurses.

He said: "Macmillan are our charity of the year, and we recently reported that staff here in Cowbridge had raised £618 through a charity walk.

"Our head office has decided to add to this sum, so Macmillan will receive an extra £350 as a result."

Rebecca Parke, Macmillan's fundraising manager for Cowbridge, came along to collect the cheque.

Welsh cancer choir to sing out on Saturday night TV

RIGHT: 'Sing With Us', who are pictured with Russell Grant on the steps of the Senedd, will feature in this week's National Lottery draw show.

'SING with Us', Tenovus's all-Wales choir project, will feature on *The National Lottery: Break The Safe* this Saturday (August 17) at 8pm on BBC One.

A film will be shown on the National Lottery draw show, highlighting the life-changing work of the Sing with Us choirs.

Nearly £1m of Lottery funding has helped cancer charity Tenovus to set up 15 uplifting and fun choirs across Wales for cancer patients, their families, carers and friends, to provide social support and to improve their health and wellbeing.

Sing with Us claimed a runners-up spot in this year's National Lottery Awards.

The project beat hundreds of other entries to be shortlisted in the best charity/voluntary category and gained over 2,400 votes, but lost out to 'My Sister's Place' for the top prize.

Winners of the National Lottery Awards will receive their awards at a ceremony in London next month, which will be broadcast on BBC One and hosted by actor John Barrowman.

Under-16s rugby

BRIDGEND Sports RFC under-16s are looking for new players.

Are you going into year-11 in September and want to join a fast-growing, ambitious club? The new coaching team will help players learn, develop and improve existing skills, ensuring all play to their full potential.

For further information see website: www.bridgendsportsrfc.com or call coaching co-ordinator Marc Jehu on 07879692666.

Training is on Wednesday evenings between 7pm and 8.15pm at the Bandstand pitch (behind Bridgend Rec).

VT

Volunteer to be a friend...

mirus, a Welsh charity that helps support people with disabilities, has launched a volunteer scheme with a difference in the Bridgend area.

"A number of people mirus help support have requested that they would like to have help with building friendships and increase their involvement in the community in and around Bridgend and Maesteg area. They need your help to achieve this!" a spokeswoman said.

"We'll match you with a person according to what interests you have as well as the time you can have to offer. You will also receive ongoing support and training from our Volunteer Coordinator."

For details, email Bridgend volunteer coordinator lynner@mirus-wales.org.uk or telephone 01656 769073.

Table tennis

THE Cardiff Community Table Tennis Club which meets every Friday evening in the Upper Hall of Wales Sport in Sophia Gardens from 7pm until 9pm resumes its evening sessions on August 16.

Please note that there is no session on August 23.

It uses 16 table tennis tables and provides the use of bats and balls free of charge. There is no joining fee, just £3 per evening and £2 for juniors and players of all ages and abilities are welcome.

There are opportunities to play matches in the Cardiff League for those who want to play competitively.

Please telephone Roy Gibson on 01446 412352 for more information.

RG

CHARITY MATCH SEEKING SPONSORS

SUNDAY, September 8, will see Bridgend Disabled FC take on Fathers Reaching Out at Bryncethin Sports Hall Astro Turf Pitch; kick off 1pm.

The aim of the game is to raise money for the two groups and to promote disabled football in Wales and tackle post-natal depression.

they are looking for local businesses to support the day by placing an advert in the program or by sponsoring the match ball.

Please help raise money for these two groups by sponsoring the event - please contact *brid genddfc@hotmail.co.uk* for more information.

KH

Toastmasters elect Vale man as president

Public speaker, Tony Bennett has been elected president of Cardiff Toastmasters' Public Speaking Club.

The award-winner from Cowbridge pointed out: "Toastmasters are not be confused with men in red coats announcing speeches at weddings.

"We are a members' club for people of all ages and backgrounds who want to improve their public speaking, communication and leadership skills.

"The international club was established 89 years ago in California, and now has more than 280,000 members in over 13,000 clubs worldwide. It is recognised as the 'gold standard' in public speaking.

"The Cardiff club was chartered in 2012 and we are now in our second very successful year. Our members are mainly from Cardiff and Vale area, but some travel from as far afield as Llanelli and Merthyr.

"Our twice monthly meetings are held in Charles Street, Cardiff; however, I love to visit other clubs, too.

"I first spoke at a Toastmasters club in San Diego two years ago and since then I have spoken at Marbella, Malaga and Copenhagen, as well as at our nearby sister clubs in Usk, Yate, Newbury, Devon and Malvern.

"It is a wonderful way to meet new friends and improve communication skills.

"Members are very supportive and it is huge fun, all are welcome".

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

NOTTAGE BURGLARY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

PC Humphries continued: "If anyone has been offered the opportunity to acquire any of these machines for sale, please contact us as soon as possible."

Anyone with any information should contact PC Humphries at Maesteg Police Station on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111 (quote reference 6213025188 1).

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Schools are praised for great garden projects

Pupils from Eagleswell Primary School collect their award.

Bute Cottage Nursery School.

Cadoxton Nursery School children

St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School.

THE Best Kept Village schools' competition was judged over two lovely sunny days in July, by two teams: Richard Skinner, Barbara Hodges, Irena Wasileska and Christine Kelly and Pam Robins.

The judges felt all schools are to be congratulated on the tremendous effort from the children and teaching staff.

Schools that have entered in previous years had improved and added new features.

CATEGORY A

First prize: St Andrews Major Church in Wales Primary School; second prize: Ashgrove School.

Joint third prize: All Saints Primary School, Barry; Dinas Powys Infants School; and Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School.

Highly commended: Cogan Primary School; Eagleswell Primary School and Pendoylan Primary School.

CATEGORY B

First prize: Bute Cottage Nursery School; second prize: Eagleswell Nursery School.

Joint third prize: Cadoxton Nursery School and Cogan Nursery School.

Highly commended: Dinas Powys Infants – Nursery; Pendoylan Nursery School.

Some schools only have concrete yards in which to work, yet they managed to incorporate many innovative and interesting items.

The judges particularly loved the hairy caterpillars made from planted grass seed.

Several schools are now saving seed to grow next year, showing the children the importance of plant life cycles.

Recycling is an important aspect and items are recycled and re-used as a matter of course. Plant containers were made from used plastic milk cartons, broken toy storage boxes, old wellies and even lamp shades.

Composting was universal and water butts were used in most schools. Litter was virtually non-existent in all schools.

The winners were announced at a special event at Dyffryn Gardens when the winning schools were presented with their prizes. Judge Pam Robins said: "We were thrilled to see so many enthusiastic, happy children thoroughly enjoying working and playing in the gardens and learning all the time.

"Congratulations and well done to everyone – and don't forget to enter again next year!" **CA**

Local AM learns from BAMC apprentices

Eluned Parrott with BAMC staff.

WELSH Lib-Dem Shadow economy and transport minister, Eluned Parrott, became the first of the party's AMs to spend a day learning from apprentices, as part of the 'A Million Jobs for a Stronger Economy' campaign.

She spent a day as an apprentice at British Airways Maintenance Cardiff (BAMC) in Rhoose, where newly-qualified apprentice Steven Stolenzburg taught her how to service the hydraulics of a Boeing 777 engine.

The regional AM for South Wales Central also met British Airways' apprentices to discuss the benefits of being an apprentice and how the scheme can suit many people with different skills.

The Maintenance Facility, which is situated next to Cardiff Airport, employs 1,000 people, and carries out scheduled maintenance on British Airways fleet of Boeing 777 and 747 aircraft.

Vale brothers are cleared on 11 waste dumping charges

AT Cardiff Crown Court, two brothers have been cleared of illegally dumping waste on a farm in the Vale.

Natural Resources Wales brought the prosecution against Mr Nigel England, 50, of Pwll-y-Darren Farm, Welsh St Donats, and Mr Phillip England, 61, of New Road, Pencoed.

They were found not guilty of 11 charges. The jury could not reach a verdict on a remaining charge against their Siteserv waste management firm.

The prosecution had claimed that illegal material had been deposited in a field at Pwll-y-Darren Farm, Welsh St Donats..

The brothers argued that the field had been legally filled in with inert subsoil from a Cowbridge flood alleviation scheme and from their own quarrying operation, for which they had permission.

The prosecution has 14 days to decide whether to pursue the outstanding charge against Llandow-based Siteserv, which employs about 200 people.

A spokesperson from Natural Resources Wales said: "We have a duty to investigate possible illegal waste activities and prosecute where we believe an offence has been committed.

"Waste crime can harm the environment, impact on local communities and undermine legitimate business, so we will take action where appropriate."

'Beware this PPI refund scam' – *warning*

LOCAL residents are being warned about a new scam which targets people who may have been mis-sold Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) in the past.

Vale Trading Standards stated: "In most cases, consumers are contacted by phone and advised that they are owed a substantial sum of money. The scammers are often very convincing and hold the consumer's personal details, which adds to the authenticity of the call.

"The consumer is told it is quite simple to arrange this refund. All they need do is buy a Ukash Voucher for several hundred pounds to cover an administration fee so the company can process the refund.

"Ukash is a legitimate pre-paid electronic cash service which allows users to purchase money online after obtaining a code from the company."

After handing over the Ukash code to the scammers, the consumer is advised that a representative will visit their home shortly with a cash payment from the PPI refund.

"Of course, this never happens and once the code is disclosed to the scammers the money is cashed online", said Vale council's principal trading standards officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey.

"We warn consumers never to divulge personal information to unknown callers. Always refuse to make upfront payments to secure a financial gain, whether it be a refund, lottery win, prize draw or other such enticing offer."

If you have been a victim of fraud and wish to report it, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or via their website on *www.actionfraud.police.uk*.

New deputy police chief takes over

Matt Jukes, Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police.

THE South Wales Police have announced the appointment of Matt Jukes as Deputy Chief Constable, who joined the force in 2010 as an Assistant Chief Constable responsible for specialist crime matters.

He has established a joint scientific support unit, leading several high profile counter terrorism operations and overseeing the regional organised crime unit, Tarian.

He takes over following Colette Paul's promotion to Chief Constable of the Bedfordshire Police force.

South Wales Chief Constable, Peter Vaughan said: "I have worked closely with Matt for the last three years, and know his vast amount of operational experience and expertise and his diverse knowledge and range of skills, are of great benefit to the force and the public of south Wales.

"As a senior member of my management team, Matt has played a key part in the performance improvements achieved over the last few years."

Lazarus rises – *again!*

AS part of the Government's Defence Review, with emphasis being placed on expanding our reserve forces, 614 Squadron (County of Glamorgan) Royal Auxiliary Air Force is to be resurrected in September.

The Squadron of original 'weekend flyers' flew out of the then Pengam airfield, Cardiff, in the 1930s – now a housing estate and Tesco 24-hour store – and in World War Two flew Spitfires and other aircraft in, inter alia, North Africa and Italy.

Disbanded in 1956, it was reformed as a Ground Defence Squadron, part of and trained by the RAF Regiment at RAF St Athan in 1987.

Disbanded again in 1989/90, like Lazarus it is arising from the dead and will be raised in Cardiff.

It will be an RAF Regiment Unit (Royal Aux Airforce) and will be joined by other similar units being formed elsewhere in the UK.

Christopher Short, Barry ***(ex RAF Regiment (R Aux AF) RAF St Athan)***

Tattooists and parents warned

PARENTS and tattooists are being warned about the law surrounding tattoos and children.

"Under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 it is a criminal offence to tattoo a child under the age of 18. Any tattoo artist, licensed or otherwise, found tattooing a child under the legal age could face criminal charges, and parents who give their consent, could also face criminal prosecution," said Marc Adams Jones, environmental health officer at the Vale Council. "Over the past few months, we have become aware of an increase in the number of home tattooists practising their art without being registered as tattoo studios and plying their trade on youngsters under the age of 18.

"The youngsters have been targeted whilst in school and we have received information relating to a number of 14 and 15-year-old females being tattooed unsupervised, in unhygienic conditions, in bedrooms and kitchens of domestic properties."

Guards' reunion

TO mark 25 years since Barry guards became redundant, I invite all involved with the railway in the local area, around October 1988, to a reunion in Wetherspoons, Barry, on Saturday, October 5 at 2pm. Please attend!

B.Harvey (Barry guard)

Contact 01446 74785

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TY HAFAN LOTTERY DRAW WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D787.

- **£2,000: 339268**.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £4,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 679451, 274232, 505371, 217846, 277159, 402443, 374656, 822980, 368130, 874214, 216079, 225753, 502611, 209508, 776176, 324197, 466809, 629177, 546062, 534112.
- **£5:** 144030, 695308, 949362, 531218, 626885, 706879, 102219, 150122, 471850, 710601, 747963, 458139, 640663, 781216, 622303, 739803, 512038, 788225, 181818, 126886, 752948, 179826, 301203, 948447, 134133, 542827, 682795, 785490, 604651, 855920, 317782, 699392, 696034, 827785, 291111, 494822, 374723, 886046, 365573, 435668, 897786, 328620, 418377, 885657, 323598, 355459, 102750, 845182, 508113, 283473, 573723, 318740, 692483, 833079, 231539, 329892, 780768, 483353, 978572, 175512.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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Charity opera night

ENJOY a charity evening of Puccini and Prosecco at a charity opera night at Penarth Yacht Club in Penarth on Monday September 16; three course dinner and sparkling reception, serenaded by singers from Welsh National Opera. Tickets £29.50; proceeds to Welsh Hearts. Contact 07730944700, or fundraising@welshhearts.org.

Cadets tackle adventure training at Tor Y Foel

AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, recently travelled to the Brecon Beacons for a day of exciting and challenging adventurous training.

The aim was to prepare Cadets for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to a competent degree of navigation, team building skills and understanding the country code.

The walk itself was of moderate difficulty, 10 kilometres in distance, and gave younger Cadets a real taste of the outdoors. The route started from Talybont Reservoir travelling up and around to Tor Y Foel (a total ascent of 1,000 feet within a short distance.)

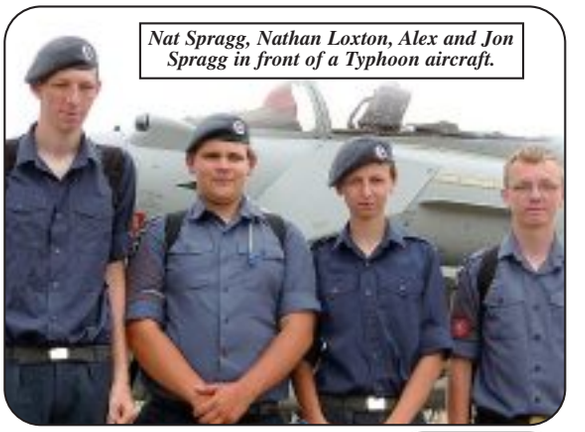
The group worked very well, encouraging and assisting each other throughout the day. At times throughout the day, the weather was very hot; however, from the summit the Cadets had clear views of the Beacons and Sugar Loaf in the distance.

Training forms a very important part of the Cadet's life. It covers teambuilding, leadership, mountain craft, camp craft, safety training and navigation before going on the hills.

Cadet Lisa Niering said: "Tor Y Foel was hard, I didn't think I would make it to the top. I tried really hard and eventually when I got to the top, I was really excited. The views were amazing".

The cadets on the walk were: Pippa and Jack Cowles, Lisa Niering, Jo Bailey, Nathan Farmer, Georgina and Ellie Poulakis.

Cadets are now looking forward to an action-packed programme of flying, gliding, shooting, sports, training camps, visits and expeditions.



Nat Spragg, Nathan Loxton, Alex and Jon Spragg in front of a Typhoon aircraft.

CADETS AT AIR TATTOO

AIR Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron, recently travelled to the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford to see the world's largest military airshow.

Few events can rival the intensity, drama and spectacle on offer at the world's greatest airshow. The Air Tattoo not only includes thrilling flying action from over 250 aircraft from air forces around the world, but the cadets were also treated to non-stop entertainment on the ground with many interactive displays.

They saw many impressive displays including the F16 Fighting Falcon, Tornado, Typhoon, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the Red Arrows and the French, Spanish and Italian aerobatic display teams.

The Italian Air Force acrobatic team 'Frecce Tricolori Display team', also put on an amazing display of their flying skills.

Cadet Rhys Williams said: "The flying displays were really cool. My favourite display was seeing the Red Arrows. The whole day was amazing."

Cadets attending were: Jamiee-Lee Bird, Jack and Pippa Cowles, Amy Gilpin, Rhys Horton, Kieren Long, Nathan Loxton, Ellie, Zena and Georgina Poulakis, Rhys Williams, Nat and Jon Spragg, Steven Denner and Jonny Ball.

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm – 9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

JASON HORTON

Pippa and Jack Cowles

DAVE REYNOLDS HONOURED AT BEAR HOTEL

Much-loved colleague says farewell to GEM

A special celebration honouring one of The Glamorgan GEM's long-serving employees, Dave Reynolds, was held at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Friday, August 9.

Dave (65) a popular and invaluable member of The GEM's production team, was retiring after 50 years in the print and newspaper industry.

An Aberdare man "born and bred", Dave worked on newspapers all over south Wales – in Merthyr, Caerphilly, Bridgend and latterly Cowbridge.

During his 50 years in the industry, he witnessed the changes from 'hot metal' to 'paste-up' and on to computerised technology.

Dave said that he is looking forward to spending more time with his eight grandchildren and tinkering with the many motorbikes populating his garage.

GEM Editor, Don John, commented: "We are all very sorry to see Dave leave. He has been one of our most highly-regarded members of staff, a talented graphic designer with a modest and patient manner that has endeared him to his colleagues.

"He will be sadly missed, but we all wish him well as he begins a very well-earned retirement."

The head of production at The GEM, Lloyd Jones, said: "Dave and I have worked together for 20 years and I couldn't have wished for a better colleague.

"No one could have been more helpful, and everyone at The GEM will miss him."

TRC

Dave at the Bear Hotel, blowing out the candles on his retirement cake.

THE DRAGON AT MAMETZ WOOD

by GAVIN DAVIES

AT about 8.30am on Friday July 7 1916, the Cardiff City and 1st and 2nd Gwent battalions attacked the eastern face of Mametz Wood.

The wood was held by one of the best units in the Imperial German army and a smokescreen, intended to screen the attackers from machinegun fire from Flatiron Copse, in what was to become known as 'Death Valley', failed to materialise.

As a result, the attack failed, with heavy casualties, none of our troops getting to within two hundred yards of the wood.

Among those who died, were Capt J L Williams of the Welsh Regiment who captained the Welsh rugby side and played for the British Lions, Lieut Pryce-Hamer of the South Wales Borderers, a Welsh soccer international, and Lieuts Arthur and Leonard Tregaskis, who had emigrated to Canada, but returned when war broke out.

Their first attack had failed. Between 4am and 4.30am on Monday July 10, two Battalions from north Wales, the Swansea Pals and the 2nd Rhondda, made a second attack against the south face of the Wood.

Col Carden of the 16th Royal Welsh Fusiliers led an impromptu service and said: "Boys, make your peace with God. We are going to take that position and some of us won't come back. But we are going to take it."

Then he tied a handkerchief to his walking stick saying: "This will show you where I am," and led the battalion forward.

He was hit twice and then killed, as his men broke into the German positions.

For the rest of the day, the Welsh troops fought their way slowly forward through Mametz Wood. By nightfall, it was in their hands.

ABOVE:
The Welsh Memorial at Mametz.

Capturing the wood cost the Division 602 killed, 585 missing (many of whom would also be dead) and 2,816 wounded, about one-third of their infantry strength.

In 1985, a committee of the south Wales branch of the Western Front Association, decided to build a memorial at Mametz Wood. A sub-committee raised the necessary funds and commissioned David Peterson to make a statue of a dragon.

The memorial, which carries the inscription 'Parchwn eu hymdrechion parhaed ein hatgofion' (We revere their endeavours. May we continue to remember), was dedicated on the 71st anniversary of the battle and the 25th anniversary of the dedication was marked by a service last year.

The south Wales branch are still responsible for maintaining the memorial and have recently launched an appeal to have the Dragon repainted and the plinth and site refurbished for the centenary of the capture of Mametz Wood in 2016.

The Welsh Assembly Government has made a generous donation, but more money is still needed.

To help the appeal, Cor Meibion de Cymru have arranged a concert on Saturday, September 21, in the Royal Welsh College of Drama. Tickets (£12 and £10) are available from the college (Tel 02920 391391 email *Boxoffice@rwcmd.ac.uk* Ms Jane Benjamin of the south Wales branch (email *mutiny1917@hotmail.com*) and Roger Hopkin of Cor Meibion De Cymru (email *rands.hopkin135@btinternet.com*). We would urge everyone to support what will be a first class concert in aid of a cause close to the heart of everyone in Wales.

FRACKING:

'Wales is following Westminster's lead'

– Friends of the Earth

THE Welsh Government has refuted claims by Friends of the Earth Cymru that it has "turned down the opportunity to protect communities from the threat of fracking, and will instead follow the pro-fracking lead from Westminster".

FoE said this week that Minister for Planning Carl Sargeant AM could introduce stricter planning controls on drilling for shale gas, but in a letter stated he would only act to protect communities in Wales if legislation is changed to do so in England.

"Fracking can pollute groundwater, has already caused earthquakes in England, and can potentially have even higher climate emissions than coal," said Gareth Clubb, director of FoE Cymru.

"Communities right across Wales are crying out for the Welsh Government to stand up and do something to protect them from fracking. Instead it's decided to wait for changes to be made in England – if they happen at all.

"This makes a mockery of devolution. Instead of considering the particular circumstances in Wales and protecting Welsh communities, our Government is hanging on the coat-tails of the most pro-fracking government in Europe.

"Devolution means we can follow a path that best serves the people of Wales. With areas in Swansea, Bridgend, Neath, Rhondda, Wrexham and Newport already licensed for fracking, the Welsh Government must be prepared to listen to communities here, and not just wait for the politicians in Westminster to decide.

"There's plenty of expert evidence that fracking won't lead to cheaper fuel bills, but it will keep us hooked on dirty fuels and destroy any chance of tackling our climate change emissions.

"Wales has some of the best renewable energy resources on the planet – instead of this obsession with digging up our towns and countryside for every last drop of fossil fuel, we should get on with the job of being at the forefront of a clean industrial revolution."

ASSEMBLY RESPONSE

However, a Welsh Government spokesperson said: "Friends of the Earth are absolutely wrong in their assertion. We take decisions based upon the best interests of the people of Wales and in doing so we take account of the issues which will affect local communities in Wales.

"However as Friends of the Earth know, the process of granting UK exploration licences, well consents and field development consents for shale gas is a matter for the UK Government.

"Any operator proposing to either explore or extract shale gas in Wales will also have to obtain the necessary planning permission from the local planning authority.

"Given the challenges of energy security and supply, we understand there is a need to look at the potential of this type of energy resource. However, there is also a need to fully consider all the evidence relating to both the exploration and potential commercial development of shale gas, and particularly any impacts on communities and the environment.

"We will continue to engage with the UK Government and the regulators to ensure a robust evidence-based policy framework is in place for unconventional gas in the UK."

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Car wash for charity ride

THINKVANS.COM Limited carried out a charity car wash in aid of the company's plan to enter a team in this year's British Heart Foundation's London to Paris cycle ride. The team are aiming to raise £250 for the charity.

"The car wash raised an amazing £445 and was a huge success. The team would like to thank all those that supported the event and donated in a most generous way. They are aiming to have another car wash in late August, as a final push to try and break the fundraising target," said spokesperson Rhian Frewin.

PACT meetings

LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT, *Ewenny Village Hall, on Wednesday, August 21 at 7pm.*

BUTTRILLS PACT*, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on Thursday, August 22 at 6pm.*

WENVOE *coffee and chat meeting at the Wenvoe Arms on August 22 at 11am.*

GARDENS OPEN

PENYLAN Gardens, Penylan, Cardiff, CF23 5BD, will be open to the public on Sunday (August 18) from 2pm to 6pm. Admission £4.

Penylan is a Victorian suburb of mostly terraced houses with small gardens and many parks.

The seven gardens show a variety of ways of adding interest and individuality to a small space including Mediterranean-style sunny patio areas, informal mix of cottage plants, a riot of exotic foliage, stone walled south-east facing cottage garden offering colour and peace away from the busy main road and a bijou terrace garden profusely planted with an abundance of unusual and exotic plants.

Victoria Thornton and Pat and Mel Griffiths are regular winners in the Cardiff in Bloom competition.

The new gardens feature a surprisingly large city garden with deep flower beds, ponds and a dove cote; a postage stamp sized garden where trees provide an architectural framework with shade-loving plants packed beneath; a natural garden with ferns, lavender and bay trees.

Please note: not all gardens are within walking distance. Maps showing the gardens will be available.

AT LAST, WALES SEES THE LIGHT

READER'S VIEW

IT is a delight to see that the Welsh NHS has finally realised that 21st Century technology, in the form of Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy, is appropriate for Welsh men.

That their English NHS counterparts saw the light some years ago is, of course, a disappointing fact. As is the fact that so many Welshmen have paid to have NHS treatment of this kind in England, the Welsh Government having declined funding in a timely fashion.

They have been both dismissive and tardy in their correspondence with concerned individuals and groups. Not for nothing have I coined the phrase 'bureaucratababble'.

Readers will know of the significant contribution of Prostate Cymru and, in particular, the late Ray Murray, who was a founding trustee, made to the debate. We owe Ray a huge debt of gratitude.

It is no small consideration for Welsh politicians to note that the recent Prostate Cymru-sponsored petition had signatures from every single Welsh constituency, supporting the need for this technology.

With the decision made, we now need to see urgent and focussed action, in order to get this technology into action as soon as possible.

Oh, and if you are a man over 50 years of age, do have a discussion with your healthcare provider about PSA.

Professor Kevin Davies MBE.
Cowbridge.

Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Cadets' AGM

ON September 24, Penarth Sea Cadets are holding their annual general meeting at the Sea Cadet Hall, Stanwell Crescent, Penarth, at 7pm. All are welcome to the open meeting.

Keep Wales Tidy celebrates

KEEP Wales Tidy is hosting a fundraising gala dinner to conclude its 40th anniversary celebrations on Wednesday, October 30 at the Vale Hotel and Spa Resort in Hensol.

Welsh TV presenter Sian Thomas will compere the event and Keep Wales Tidy ambassador Tom Shanklin, who recently took part in a fundraising bike ride for the charity will also appear.

"Keep Wales Tidy's fundraising gala dinner will be the perfect occasion to round off its 40th anniversary and raise money so that we can continue to support communities across Wales. I'm looking forward to meeting Keep Wales Tidy staff, volunteers and partners on the night," she commented.

For full details contact the fundraising team on 029 2025 6767 or south@keepwalestidy.org.

Family fun weekend

DYFFRYN Gardens will be open for a family fun weekend on August 17 – 18 from 11am – 4pm each day.

Children can play games on the lawn, have a bounce on the bouncy castle and have their faces painted, making 'butterflies' in the house and creating a giant flower.

Around the Bay swim

ON Saturday, August 17 at 3pm Porthcawl Lifeguard Club holds its around the Bay swim at Coney beach, Porthcawl.

This open water event is open to all competent swimmers and there are two courses. The long course is from the beach start line to a marker buoy near the pier and back again. The shorter course will be a one-way swim to the harbour slipway.

Registration is at 2pm at the club house on Rhych point overlooking Coney beach. Entry fee will be £15 for the long course and £10 for the short course and all swimmers will receive hot soup and a roll after the swim. There will also be a barbecue.

Ward surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan, will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery this Saturday, August 17 from 10am until 11.30am, in the meeting room of Barry Library Kings Square. No appointment necessary.

Fair at St Mary Hill

CENTURIES-OLD St Mary Hill Fair will be held on the common between Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw on bank holiday Monday, August 26 from 10am until 4pm.

Traders from all over the country sell horses, poultry, fine china and leather goods.

Each year the fair supports a local charity. Unfortunately, in 2012 the fair was cancelled due to exceptionally bad weather but in 2011 a cheque for £3,500 was presented toMacmillan Cancer Nurses.

Parking on the common will cost £5 per vehicle and two large car parks will be open.

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John Rhys Davies at Maesteg Town Hall

RIGHT: Legendary Welsh screen actor John Rhys Davies.

LORD OF THE RINGS' Welsh actor John Rhys-Davies is to appear at a Q & A charity event in Maesteg Town Hall tonight, Thursday, August 15, at 7pm.

John shot to fame in 1980, when he starred with Richard Chamberlain in the hit TV mini-series *Shogun*.

Since then he's racked up an impressive list of credits, including the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, the Indiana Jones films, *The Untouchables* and *The Living Daylights*.

He agreed to take part in the Q & A event to support a local charity, the Llangynwyd Community Association, which is raising funds to help members renovate their new village hall after the previous structure burned down 13 years ago.

A spokeswoman for the event told The GEM: "The Q&A session will be a rare opportunity to meet the acclaimed actor.

"Younger viewers will recall his villainous viscount in *Princess Diaries* 2, and older members may recall him in *Budgie, I Claudius,* and *The Naked Civil Servant* – so there will be plenty to discuss!"

There will be the chance to have a photo taken with John at 7pm, followed at 7.30pm by the Q & A session, and an opportunity for autographs at the end.

There will be a small charge for photos and autographs with proceeds going to Llangynwyd Community Association.

For tickets, ring 01656 733269 or 07790 314 883. Tickets will also be available on the door. For more information on the event, contact Lesley Grantham-Brooks on 01656 730 185.

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Classic car club's 21 years supporting Bobath cause

SOUTH Wales Classic Car Club (SWCC) continued its relationship with Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales by presenting the charity with a cheque for £1,500 at its 30th birthday celebrations last night.

SWCCC has supported Bobath Wales for over 21 years, donating tens of thousands of pounds to the charity that provides specialist therapy to children who have cerebral palsy.

Since the first classic car show took place in 1986, the show has grown into one of the premier events in the country, with exhibitors coming from all over Wales, England and Ireland.

Gail Griffiths, Bobath Wales' fundraising manager, said: "We are very grateful to the past and present committee and club members of the SWCCC for its dedicated commitment and fundraising efforts that make such a difference to all the children who attend Bobath Wales. We can't thank them enough!"

For further information on any Bobath Wales events, fundraising, or to become a volunteer, contact the fundraising team on fundraising@bobathwales.org, call 02920 522600 or visit www.bobathwales.org.

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Forget the rumours... The Lone Ranger rides proudly into blockbuster season!

YOU could count on the fingers of a one-handed man the amount of times Johnny Depp has played a straight role, the actor seemingly pre-occupied with charting the weird and the wonderful through the likes of Willy Wonka, Edward Scissorhands, and, of course, Captain Jack Sparrow, something that audiences are, even now, still lapping up.

With this in mind, Depp's latest film sees him star as Tonto in *The Lone Ranger*, where Armie Hammer plays the titular character, who, returned from the dead (thanks to Tonto), becomes a masked vigilante, chasing down Butch Cavendish (William Fichtner); but Cavendish's misdeeds are the smaller part of a larger plan that the pair will need to foil...

For any producer, director or actor to attempt a popcorn Western, there are three words that will put a chill in your boots and blow your stetson clean off – *Wild Wild West*.

The Will Smith-starring misfire may be 14 years old, but is still spoken of in hushed tones; so when Gore Verbinski (director of the first three *Pirates of the Caribbean* films) reteams with Johnny Depp to have a crack, surely this pair who, together and separately, have made cinema box offices overfill, can't go wrong?

Well, if you believe the American box office and many critics, the pair have made a misstep so severe that nothing can save it from total ignominy.

However, given that this is the same country to make *Grown Ups 2* a box office success, hopefully it will find a fairer response on this side of the pond.

It certainly deserves it, the film an enjoyable popcorn thrill ride that packs plenty of invention, spectacle and humour into an admittedly overlong running time – but come the end credits, gives you the feeling you've been watching a genuine summer blockbuster.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Quite why the critics have been so harsh is confusing – maybe Depp's critic-proof box office success has something to do with it – but you can't find fault with the performances from the leads, with both Depp and Armie Hammer mightily impressive.

The former may be on similar nutty territory to some of his previous roles, but there is plenty more restraint and subtlety in his performance.

Tonto isn't a caricature, more a comedy character with depth and weight behind him, and Depp's physically-impressive comedic performance, with shades of Buster Keaton, is a pleasure to watch.

The same can be said for Hammer: underneath his matinee looks, lies an actor of real resolve and he gives the title character a gritty determination and purpose – but with that an ability to play the comedy to perfection.

Sharing a wonderful double act with Depp, he is half of a superb pairing.

The rest of the cast – from villainous William Fichtner and love interest Ruth Wilson to Tom Wilkinson's shady rail man – all play their parts well, but with the focus on the lead pair, they don't get much more to do than deliver solidly entertaining performances.

Gore Verbinski certainly knows his way around a blockbuster and he gives *The Lone Ranger* a wonderful sense of spectacle, taking the generic elements of the western and giving them a bit of an edge. His ability to marry action spectacle and humour plays incredibly well.

The care and attention the set-pieces have been given is, at times, truly breathtaking; in particular, a grandstanding climax that is easily one of the best sequences offered up this summer in terms of invention and execution.

Certainly, the story stretches a familiar conceit to almost breaking point (it seems narrative is still Verbinski's Achilles heel) while the film is definitely about 30 minutes too long, but if you can overlook these slightly indulgent aspects, you'll find plenty to enjoy about *The Lone Ranger*, a film most undeserving of the critical brickbats aimed at it.

VERDICT: A perfect summer thrill ride, with spectacle, humour and an enjoyable sense of zest and zeal, *The Lone Ranger* is a very entertaining blockbuster. Pilloried unfairly by critics and the American box office, there is plenty to commend here, from Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer's excellent performances, to some wonderful set-pieces. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pirates of the Caribbean* (2003), *The Mask Of Zorro* (1998).

Open day offers a chance to meet cats and kittens

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding a pirate-themed open day on August 17, 10.30am – 4pm; and it promises to be a fun day out for all of the family.

The staff will be dressed in pirate costume to welcome visitors. Attractions include a treasure hunt, stalls, raffle, tombola, barbecue, fresh cakes, bouncy castle, refreshment, face painting and much more.

Children can join in the fun by dressing up in costume, and a prize will be given to the best fancy dress.

Special guests will be the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Clive James, and the Mayoress Coun Pauline James. Visitors can also meet the many loving and adorable cats in the centre's care. They include Blackbeard, a five-week-old male kitten and Captain, an eight-week-old kitten.

MEET THE CAPTAIN!

MEET BLACKBEARD!

Sue Dobbs, the centre manager said: "The open day is a great opportunity to enjoy some summertime fun while supporting the charity which finds new homes for the many unwanted and abandoned cats that come into its care".

Admission is £1 for adults, 50p for children and under 3s are free.

For more information about the open day and/or directions, visit www.bridgend.cats.org.uk or call 01656 724396.

Appeal launched to save the 'Balmoral'

THE future of the Balmoral, a member of Britain's officially recognised National Historic Fleet, is under threat amidst fears that the vintage excursion ship may never sail again.

The ship, which is currently moored in Bristol City Docks, has not sailed since 2012 and will not sail again unless £350,000 is raised to secure its future.

A combination of issues, including poor weather in the summer of 2012, prevented the ship from sailing this year.

A fundraising campaign has now been launched called 'Save the Balmoral' with £350,000 urgently needed to ensure the ship returns to the waters off south Wales, Somerset and Devon.

The Balmoral has carried over two million passengers in the 27 years since it was restored to passenger service by a charity.

Members of the public can volunteer to help with fundraising activities, or make a donation by visiting *www.mvbalmoral.org.uk*

Showing an interest in the Sully U3A

THE Sully U3A recently held a successful open meeting when, instead of a speaker at its August meeting, interest groups talked about what they do when they meet.

Sully U3A has nearly 20 interest groups, including badminton, book club, bridge, circle dancing, computing, creative writing, discussion, family history, knitters and stitchers, local history, luncheon club, natural healing, quiz, recorders, photography, singing, table tennis and walking.

The knitters and stitchers attracted a lot of attention. There was an array of their individual work, with their joint project as the centrepiece. Recently, members pooled ideas for working on something together and came up with creating a garden.

Everyone contributed flowers, leaves, insects and utensils in knitting and crochet and the finished project was enjoyed by everyone.

As well as attracting a large number of members, 10 new members were recruited to U3A during the afternoon, bringing the present membership to 210 since Sully U3A formed two years ago.

Sully U3A meets on the second Thursday of the month at The Old School, South Road, Sully, at 2pm – new members welcome.

SC

YFC reunion

GLAMORGAN Young Farmers Clubs are inviting past and present members to join them at a reunion evening on August 30 at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

With thriving Young Farmers Clubs in Maendy, Wick, Bridgend, Gelligaer and Llantrisant, Neath and Gower, the hope is that past members from across the 'old' Glamorgan county will join current members to celebrate the success of this young people's movement.

With over 240 members, and often getting national success in competitions as well as its 75th anniversary in 2014, the Glamorgan reunion will be a warm-up for the big celebration.

Tickets from Mared Williams on 07792 373934.

Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter?
@gem_news

WI'S CHEQUE FOR TY HAPUS

FRIENDS of Barry Women's Institute held a coffee morning at Highlight Community Hall, Barry for Ty Hapus.

It was a great success and the ladies would like to thank all who attended, including the Mayor of Barry, Mayor of the Vale and consort.

Thank you also to all the ladies who worked hard to make this a success. A cheque for £500 will be presented to a representative of Ty Hapus at the September meeting.

JC

Another great Glamorgan GEM competition!

Summer is set to sizzle thanks to living life alfresco!

The 17th Gastro Alfresco promotional campaign is back and this time it's bigger and better than ever!

The sampling RoadShows will once again be touring throughout the summer, with onboard Chefs and Brand Believers inviting you to 'Come to the Gastro garden-party' running until mid September.

The RoadShows will be visiting Tesco Extras and Sainsburys up and down the country where talented on-board chefs will be creating a selection of delicious dishes. Shoppers will also be able to sample products from brands including . . .

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This year's Gastro Alfresco is supported by some high profile brands, including: Boursin - cheese; Brancott Estate - wine; Encona - hot pepper sauces; New York Bagels; San Miguel Fresca - lager; Shloer - soft drinks; Starbucks- chilled coffee.

So just answer this simple question and you could be tucking into some tasty treats!

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Send your entries to ***Gastro Competition****, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.*

Closing date August 23rd, 2013.

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PUBLIC...

'THE VALE SHOW IS FOR ALL IN THE COMMUNITY'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Show to be held at Fonmon Castle on Wednesday, August 21, is one of the key rural and agricultural events in the summer calendar.

I am delighted to be the Show president this year and although not a farmer myself, I come from a farming background – with grandfather, uncle and brother all previously, or currently, in agriculture.

I am keeping everything crossed for fine weather, which makes show preparation much easier and the day itself more enjoyable.

From stock judging to show jumping, food halls, machinery, floral crafts and many other attractions, the occasion offers something for everybody and all ages, whether you are from a rural background, or not.

I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will find time to attend.

A huge amount of time and effort goes into organising the show and I would personally like to thank those involved for their hard work, and hope that they are rewarded by a good turn-out and fine weather.

Roger Thomas, FRICS
(Chairman, Cooke & Arkwright)

ABOVE:
The Vale Show president, Roger Thomas.

Fonmon Castle

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Taking up a royal theme at Cardiff Airport's marquee

THE 2013 Vale Show is approaching once again and the Cardiff Airport Marquee of home produce, floral crafts, and children's competitions will again have many attractions for you to visit and enjoy.

We have introduced the royal christening to the competitions this year with the Chairman's Cup competition titled "A Christening Tea', and also in the general cookery competitions 'A Christening Celebration Cake' .

For the flower arrangers, there is a table centre to celebrate the christening tea.

The babies' bonnet competition, to be donated to a local premature baby unit, is also very popular as many competitors donate their extra entries as well.

The two local schools entering the handwriting competition this year are St David's Church in Wales School, Colwinston and St Nicholas Church in Wales School.

We look forward to welcoming you to our marquee, which opens to the public at 12.30pm after the judging has taken place.

Schedules are available from the Secretary, Janet Lewis on ***01443 225202,*** *or on the Vale Show Web Site.*

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

A RICH VARIETY OF DELIGHTS AT THE CRAFT FAIR

IT is almost Showtime again and preparations for all the sections are now well under way.

This year's craft fair is promising its usual delights and variations of work.

Most of the stand holders who have attended for so many years will be with us again; they tell me each year it is their favourite craft fair...

We can look forward to seeing new crafters – which means that the effort, talent and time to produce their specific items of craft are still appreciated by the public.

For that special gift, or treat for oneself, the choice will be plentiful: Tina Drakes, from Cardigan, will be tempting us all again with her wonderful bee products: different types of honey, and excellent facial and hand creams.

David Bailey,from Powys, will be exhibiting and selling prints and cards of his amazing Welsh wildlife photography.

NEW FACES

A new local basket-maker will be with us, and she will be demonstrating some of her work.

Miranda Bowen, from Carmarthenshire, will again be exhibiting her beautiful art – her main subjects being farm animals and pets.

Another new exhibitor will be Robi Mandley from Longtown, in Herefordshire who makes some beautiful items from her own angora goats' wool.

Also on display and for sale will be the usual high- quality turned woodwork, slate work, pewter items, fretwork, pottery, children's knitwear, baby and nursery items, cushions made from recycled Welsh blankets, footrests in animal shapes, coin jewellery and silver and enamelled jewellery.

This year, the craft marquee may be situated nearer the horticultural marquee and it will be open from 9.30am – 6pm.

ANNE ARNOTT
(Secretary/organiser)

Chairman offers a warm welcome to Vale Show

AS Chairman of the Vale of Glamorgan Show, I have the pleasure of endorsing a great day out for all the family.

The show is the oldest , unrivalled outdoor event in the Vale, having been established in 1772 and still retains many traditional features – cattle and sheep rings with the best livestock in the area on show – and horse and pony competitions including show jumping.

The horticulture tent has flower, vegetables and children's competitions, with many colourful, creative displays. The craft fair always has that individual gift for someone.

The KC-registered dog show is the largest in south Wales, with over 500 dogs on show.

There is also the Birket LGA Shopping Mall, Cooke & Arkwright Food Hall, Cardiff Airport home Ppoduce marquee and many more displays, not forgetting the varied trade stands that support the show annually.

The Grand Parade of livestock and horses will be followed with The Kangaroo Kids quad bike display, which promises to be an exciting spectacle.

Don't miss the Road Train, which every year is an attraction to the young and not so young for a fun ride around the showground.

RAY THOMAS

Chairman Ray Thomas and family are looking forward to the show.

'Royal award' for Laleston farmer

BRIDGEND farmer and longstanding Royal Welsh official, Dilwyn Thomas, was presented with a Silver Armada dish by Prince Charles during the Royal Welsh Show (above).

The award and a subsequent special Royal Welsh Agricultural Society award was in recognition of Dilwyn's 45 years service to the show.

He has retired this year as Assistant Honorary Director for horses with the RWAS. Mr Thomas, who farms in Laleston, was "thrilled" with the award and spent some time discussing horses and his show career with the royal visitor.

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

The friendly rivalry and camaraderie that draws thousands to the Vale

THE Vale of Glamorgan Show is an all-round, one-day traditional county show, with friendly rivalry, camaraderie, and a lively atmosphere...

Over 20,000 spectators and entrants come from all over the country to visit the show, which will take place on Wednesday, August 21, in Fonmon Castle grounds near Cardiff Airport.

The Kangaroo Kids are the main attraction in the ring, performing quad bike stunts to thrill us all.

There will be horse classes in the ring from 8.30am, culminating in the Grand Parade of prizewinning animals at 3pm. Cattle, sheep and dog show classes take place in different areas of the field; there are also ducks, chickens and pigs on show.

The craft fair is renowned as an excellent event in itself; Mrs Arnott has been in charge for over 40 years, only allowing exhibitors who produce all their own craft.

The Cooke & Arkwright food hall has some excellent produce this year, with a number of new exhibitors selling among other things, cheese, wine and a variety of cakes and bread.

We are delighted that Birkett LGA have agreed to sponsor the shopping mall this year.

This marquee is full of a variety of small trader stalls, an excellent place to purchase gifts and household items of all discriptions.

With another 200 trade stands throughout the field, there is truly something to interest everyone in the family.

For the youngsters, there is a fairground, circus workshops, face painting, and Punch and Judy shows.

Why not compete at the event? There are schedules available for the home produce marquee, with competitions to include cooking, sewing, craft work as well as many children's competitions.

The horticultural show also runs a huge variety of competitions for the amateur and professional gardener – again, there are many children's classes.

Schedules for all the events held at the show are to be found on ***www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk***

For further information, telephone 01446 710099.

NICOLA GIBSON
(General Secretary)

LEAPING INTO LEGEND...
The Kangaroo Kid!

WE look forward to seeing the Kangaroo Kid perform at 4 pm in the main show ring on August 21 at Fonmon Castle.

The Kangaroo Kid is one of the most prolific stunt riders in the world today.

He has performed some of the most dangerous jumps possible, breaking records and performing stunts that were once the preserve of legends such as Evel Knievel.

Matt has jumped countless objects, including an RAF Phantom jet – 14 lorries and a flying airplane.

He will team up with his son, Sam, at Fonmon – to bring a brand new show to the circuit.

It promises to be a terrific display of quad biking skill – a real spectacle to watch and enjoy!

The Kangaroo Kid in action.

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Meet rugby stars at the Vale of Glamorgan Show

Welsh rugby stars Rhys Priestland, Ken Owens, Dafydd Jones, Ryan Jones and Lions coach Neil Jenkins will be at the Vale of Glamorgan Show on the 21st August.

Fans are invited to pop along to the Oil 4 Wales stand for a chance to secure photos and autographs of their rugby heroes.

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Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

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HAVE A GO AND...

Come spin a yarn with Welsh wool!

VALE members of the Tawe Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers will once again be attending the Vale of Glamorgan Show – to give visitors a taste of working with wool.

As well as demonstrating the age old skills of spinning, the ladies will also be on hand to encourage people to 'have-a-go' and spin a little yarn for themselves and to try their hand at weaving.

Local Guild member, Prof Ann Fox: said, "We have been coming along to the show for a number of years now and each time we try to bring along something new for people to see and 'have-a-go'.

"Wool is a wonderful, local and renewable source of fibre – and in Wales, we have some of the best you'll see.

"The opportunity for the public to have taster sessions with spinning wheels has, over the past few years, encouraged a number of people to take up spinning and is helping to keep the craft very much in the present, rather than a skill associated with the past."

Prof Fox added: "It is amazing how much people enjoyed the chance to try their hand at some of the skills for which Wales is famous throughout the world.

"A number of new spinners have taken up the craft since visiting the Guild at the show, and we have remained in touch.

"So, like other members of the agricultural community, it will be nice to meet up at the show and see how they have been getting on".

The Guild will also be showcasing weaving. People will be able to see examples of work showing the different types and styles that are used and how the weaving is designed and made in response to the fibre that is used for each project.

There will also be the chance to try your hand with basic peg looms, which are versatile and great fun for all ages and skill levels.

Prof Fox concluded: "It is always a great day. The shearer will be joining us again and people will be able to see how the national wool crop is gathered; in other words, shearing the sheep ready to send the wool away."

Of course, for those really keen to see the wide variety of wool, with its amazing range of colours and textures, a visit to the sheep lines is a must.

The Vale of Glamorgan Show plays host to a wide range of Lowland and Mountain sheep, British native, Continental and primitive breeds that you'll see gathered in one place.

SPINNING A YARN TO THE YOUNGSTERS

SHEAR TALENT ON SHOW...

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW 2013

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor Margaret Wilkinson, would like to wish everyone involved with The Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show a happy and successful event.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Margaret Wilkinson, Dymuno pob llwyddiant i bawb a fydd yn helpu gyda'r sioe Amaethyddol Bro Morganwg.

THE MAYOR OF BARRY COUNCILLOR CLAIRE CURTIS
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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

'Show a feat of engineering by volunteer army'

I AM often questioned as to how many full time staff work directly for the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

The honest answer to this question is - *none* – although I am sure our General Secretary, Nicola Gibson, may challenge me on this issue because Nicola's part-time role is certainly more than a full-time job, particularly in the three months leading up to the show. I often wonder how many of the tens of thousands paying public that attend the Vale's largest and most prestigious outdoor event realise that the show is run by a volunteer committee, and a whole host of volunteers from other organisations, like the local Scouts and ATC groups – who provide so much valuable help and assistance on the day.

The challenge laid before this army of volunteers annually is to present a highly organised agricultural show, attracting over 200 trade stands and crowds in the region of 20,000 to 25,000 people – hopefully, in a manner in which visitors can enjoy a safe day out, whilst viewing at close range the cattle, sheep and horses on display – which represent the very best of what the Vale of Glamorgan can offer.

Weeks of work and planning go into arranging the show field, from what is basically a green field site, into a large, one-day shopfront for farmers and the rural community to meet many town folk from the Vale and surrounding areas.

There is no computer imaging or sophistication used, but bodies on the end of tape measures using datum points such as water troughs and gateways in the perimeter of the field.

Our committee and volunteers are so dedicated to the event that many of them turn up annually and they know their own tasks that lie ahead of them.

One of the major tasks is to erect somewhere in the region of one mile of security fencing around the show field, and with the work force in place, this can be achieved usually within 3 – 4 hours.

Similarly, the volunteers are back there by 8am on the Thursday after the show, prepared for a long day's graft clearing the site following the event.

Litter picking is carried out by hand across the whole of the 65-acre site!

I admit that some of the rules, regulations and health and safety requirements, which need to be complied with to run such a large event, are becoming beyond the scope of the average volunteer; and it is grossly unfair that such individual volunteers could face the threat of prosecution if there was a major incident that went badly wrong.

To this end, the show committee are constantly reviewing all aspects of health and safety, and policies are put in place to deal with any major threat of incident at the show field.

Whilst some of this work is now handled by professionals and semi-professionals, the future success of the show still depends (and will always depend) on its army of volunteers – and long may they continue.

DAVID HARRIS
(Show Director)

EXCELLENT TIMING FOR THE NEW C4 PICASSO

BASSETTS Citroen Bridgend has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan show.

Every year, the show attracts new and existing Citroen customers, all genuinely interested in the brand's latest design and technology innovations.

The show's relaxed atmosphere not only allows Bassetts to showcase exciting new models, it also raises the profile of Citroen – a brand going from strength-to-strength recently.

Last year, the show allowed Bassetts to promote the multi award-winning DS range of cars, including the hugely successful DS3, stylish yet practical DS4, and the company's flagship DS5 models.

All three cars proved hugely popular and certainly increased showroom footfall, as word of mouth spread.

The 2013 show is excellent timing for Bassetts, coinciding with the launch of the all-new C4 Picasso. This striking model has just been delivered to the showroom and represents Citroen's 'Creative Technologie' at its best.

ANDREW JONES
(*Sales manager, Bassetts Citroen Bridgend*)

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ANDREW RT DAVIES AM
Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales Central
Andrew wishes the Vale Show all the best for 2013 and invites you to join him at the Vale Conservative stand.
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
VALE OF GLAMORGAN SHOW
Wednesday 21st August 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, use, by all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles but with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles, of the said streets or parts thereof shall be restricted between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule.

The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

SCHEDULE

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 3	COLUMN 3
Wednesday 21st August 2013	**1/Vale of Glamorgan Showground Main Access at Fonmon Castle grounds.** No right turn from the main field access/exit at grid 303747 167876 onto the B4265, this will allow only the left turn movement of vehicles from the access / exit onto the B4265. **Diversion** The diversion for West bound vehicles will be in a generally easterly direction along the B4265 to the roundabout at Penmark, then "U Turning" at this roundabout and travelling back along the B4265	6.00 am to 8.00 pm
	2/Fonmon Road, Fonmon. North bound carriageway closed to all traffic from Fonmon crossroads at grid 304806 167180 to its junction at grid 305056 167844 Nurston Road **Diversion** Northbound traffic will be diverted west along Port Road to the Blue Anchor, north through Burton Terrace and Burton Bridge, then in an easterly direction along the B4265.	6.00 am to 2.00 pm

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place
Dated this 15th day of August 2013

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

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Countdown to the deadline for the horticulture entries

WE hope, as always, that the people who grow vegetables and flowers have been able to overcome the poor weather in the spring.

This year, the horticultural schedule includes classes for the professional and amateur gardener – along with novelty classes and children's competitions.

It really is a lot of fun to compete in these competitions and we would love to hear from you with your entries.

Exhibitors should note that the last day for entries in the horticultural show is Saturday, August 17.

This is very important, because on receipt of your entries you will be sent a pass to fix to the windscreen of your vehicle. This label will allow you entry to the showfield to place your entries in the marquee before 9am on show morning; entries may also be placed on the evening before the show.

After 9am, all exhibitors will have to pay the full entry fee. The schedule is available to view on the show website *www.vale-ofglamorganshow.co.uk* (this includes the entry form to be completed and returned to Mrs. Griffin).

Let's hope the current lovely weather will last for show day!

TERRY GRIFFIN

Dog Show a top show attraction

IT'S that time of year again – August 21 – the date of the Vale Agricultural Show!

One of the major attractions is always the dog show section, and being held in the grounds of Fonmon Castle provides one of the best indoor and outdoor facilities in Wales.

Although entries at dog shows in general seem to be in decline, that is not the case at this prestigious event.

It is a 'must attend' show for dog exhibitors from Wales as well as over the border – in the Midlands, Bristol, Devon, Cornwall and along the M4 corridor.

Many breeds of dog are entered, and this proves a hit with spectators who come along to see their favourite breed – and to chat with dog owners and breeders.

Judging will commence at 11am, so please come and visit us early! Our judges are from all over the United Kingdom, but also include some of our highly- respected local judges.

We are the only show in Wales that hosts a qualifying round of the Kennel Gazette Junior Warrant challenge. Six dogs will qualify for the semi-final, at the Discover Dogs event at Earls Court, London, in November.

A huge amount of organisation both from the dog committee and the general committee goes into providing the facilities for you all and we look forward to welcoming you and hope you enjoy the day.

PETER PASK (Dog Section Secretary)

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Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE

The Show goes on with SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

LEFT: Rev Malcolm Davies and his wife Jean.

MEMORIES... *'Another season, another show'...* **as the old song goes... and I have to be honest, my wife Jean and I have enjoyed so many Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Shows over the years, many at Penllyn – and now at Fonmon Castle.**

What we both like about this event is the fact there is something going on from early morning until late evening to suit everyone.

Furthermore, it is always pleasing to see young people taking an active part – whether it is with farm animals, pet lambs, or gardening – and to see their smiling faces when they win a prize or a rosette.

Year after year, it is plain to see how farming has changed: the ongoing design of tractors – combine harvesters – and so many implements on display, that when used, quickly change the landscape. Children who sit in and on the tractors take it all in their stride.

Thanks to the show, who knows, they may be operating them one day!

By comparison, I personally enjoy standing by, watching and listening to the old machines of yesteryear spluttering away, with grandfathers explaining to their charges how it used to be in the good old days!

There is so much to see and even to take part in, that this show is one definitely not to be missed.

It is an event that has taken great strides to promote all that is good in Welsh agriculture especially here in the Vale.

Our thanks must go to those behind the scenes; to all who organise and prepare the show ground for all of us to really enjoy a good family day out.

We began with an old song so why not end with another? *'Whatever the weather, we'll all be together'...*

Have a super day with your families and loved ones.

Rev MALCOLM DAVIES

See next week's GEM for full Vale Show report and pictures

YOUR CHANCE TO MEET WELSH RUGBY STARS

LEFT: There was a scrum for autographs at last year's Vale Show - and this year should be no exception!

SOME of Wales' best-known rugby stars will be at the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show this year to meet fans and sign autographs.

Scarlets Rhys Priestland and Ken Owens, and Ospreys' Ryan Jones, will be joined by former Welsh international Dafydd Jones and British & Irish Lions' coach, Neil Jenkins, at the Oil 4 Wales stand, during the show next Wednesday, August 21.

As the oil brand for Wales, independent oil distribution company, Oil 4 Wales has a strong affiliation with Welsh rugby.

Dafydd Jones said: "We're looking forward to joining the Oil 4 Wales team at this year's Vale Show and meeting some of our fans.

"It's a great company to be involved with, as like us rugby players, they are truly passionate about Wales and serving the Welsh community."

Oil 4 Wales is a family-run business that supplies over 17,000 customers in Wales with a range of fuel services to their homes, businesses, agricultural and retail premises.

Colin Owens, managing director of Oil 4 Wales, said: "Agriculture is a big part of our business. We supply our fuels to a number of farms, small holdings and farming groups in the area, so it's great to be at one of Wales' best agricultural shows to meet our customers.

"It's also a fantastic opportunity for fans to meet some of Wales' best-loved rugby legends – so we hope to see as many people as possible at our stand."

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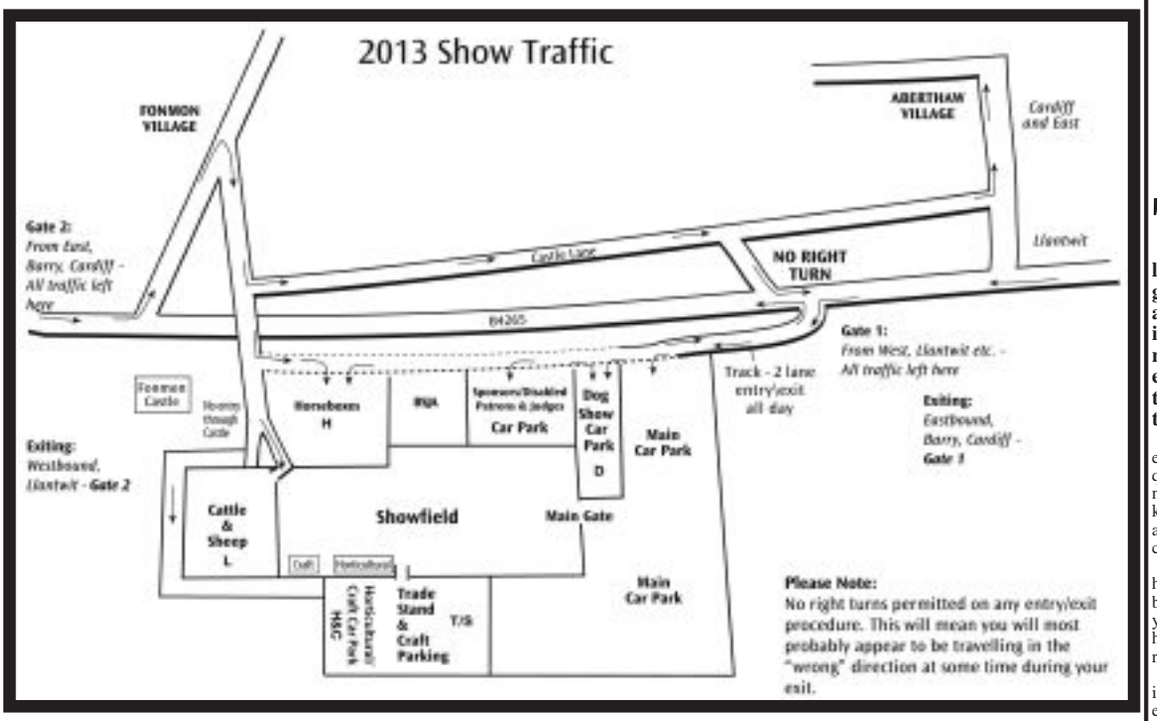
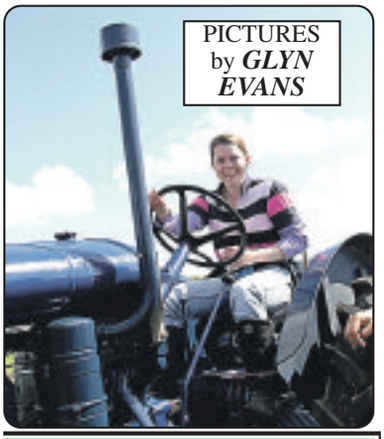
Special Rural Profile

VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Wednesday 21st August - FONMON CASTLE



Snapshots from last year's show...



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NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

It's no fun being a drone, once your task is done!

THANKS to the settled conditions of late, the bees are getting out and about, and carrying out their pollinating services, in exchange for which their reward is nectar for the taking.

Colonies have expanded and consequently swarmed, this is not always to the beekeeper's liking, but it is a part of the bee's life cycle.

'Call out' to swarms has risen, which has benefited several of this year's beginners, and I have used a couple to restock my own apiary.

The swarming impulse does not affect every colony every year; some may not swarm for two years or more.

Many colonies make preparations to swarm, but then abandon the idea; very often it is the prevailing weather conditions that are the deciding factor.

Who decides within the bee colony that it is time for some to leave and some to stay? We don't really know.

An alert beekeeper can spot indicators and take steps to try to control the outcome in his/her favour, but we do not succeed every time.

When the swarm does emerge, it is the old queen that leaves and she takes a good cross section of the bees within the colony with her.

Prior to this emergence, the queen will have stopped laying eggs and she will have been fed less so as to slim her down and make her lighter and ready for flight.

The departing bees will consume honey before they go, to enable them to exist outside an established hive, and to sustain them while they set about making new honeycomb in their chosen spot.

What of those left behind?

Well, a new queen will emerge, as the swarming bees have left behind the wherewithal for that to occur.

This new queen definitely has a headstart, she is in an established hive that has provisions and 'ready to use' honeycomb plus bees, of course.

This lady is not yet ready to take up her duties i.e. egg laying, so if her colony is to survive she must be mated; she can, of course, lay eggs, but any eggs produced prior to her mating will produce drones (*male bees*) and as it is the ladies who do all the work within the hive, and do all of the foraging outside of the hive, the laying of eggs to produce these worker bees is a must.

The drone can only be described as a flying sperm bank, this is his only contribution to any colony, his sole purpose in life is to inseminate a virgin queen.

This mating is done on the wing (flying) and the queen will mate with up to 20 drones and then return to the same hive that she came from.

Not so for the drone, once he has injected his sperm into the queen, she will literally tear herself free of him and in so doing rips the genitals out of him and he drops to the ground mortally wounded. Job done.

Our mated queen is now ensconced and giving off a pheromone (chemical signal) that lets the other ladies of the hive know she is there and ready for duty.

Another couple of weeks may pass before she starts to lay.

She will not leave the hive again until she in her turn leads out a swarm in two to three years time.

Last year two of my hives swarmed and new queens were produced; however, due to the bad weather at the time, these queens could not get out and, therefore, did not get mated – resulting in queens producing only males: no workers, no colony.

The beekeeping year is drawing to a close: very shortly the drones that did not get to mate with queens will be expelled from the hive and will, of course, die.

They have no use in the winter and come next spring new ones will take their place.

Let us hope for a better survival rate for the winter to come – the beekeeper will do all he or she can to ensure this does occur.

Varroa control will be undertaken as a further step to aid survival.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

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Woodlands Road, Barry - £114,950
Traditional end terrace, bay fronted three bedroom property. Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage, forecourt to front. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Walking distance of Gladstone Park, primary schools and Holton Road shopping centre.

Burlington Street, Barry - £115,000
Four bedroom terraced property. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom & separate wc to first floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Enclosed rear garden. Close to Holton Road shops, primary schools & train station providing links to Cardiff & Bridgend.

Senni Close, Barry - £144,950
Two bedroom semi detached in Cwm Talwg. Entrance hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway providing off road paking for 3 vehicles. Close proximity to bus routes, playing fields & local shops.

Barry Road, Barry - £149,950
Three bedroom traditional mid terrace property. Hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room. Bathroom to first floor. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating, forecourt to front & enclosed south facing, well maintained rear garden. Close to all local amenities including public transport.

Trem Powys, Barry - £159,995
Well presented three bedroom end link property situated on Springfields. Hallway, lounge, family room, kitchen/dining room. Downstairs wc, family bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway providing off road parking for one vehicle.

Hatch Cottage, Barry - £169,950
Two bedroom detached cottage in 'Old Cadoxton'. Entrance porch, lounge, dining room, bespoke fitted kitchen. Bathroom to the first floor. Enclosed rear garden with hobby room & access to off road parking. Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing. Planning permission to extend.

Sherbourne Close, Barry - £169,950
Well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated on popular Highlight Park development. Entrance porch, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen & bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Garage and driveway providing off road parking for one vehicle.

Barry Road, Barry - £175,000
Well maintained two bedroom semi detached bungalow. Porch, hallway, two reception rooms. Conservatory, kitchen, shower room, utility area. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. Driveway providing off road parking for numerous vehicles. In close proximity to shops, schools & public transport.

Oxford Street, Barry - £179,950
Tastefully renovated, traditional three bedroom bay fronted, mid terrace property. Porch . lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, ground floor wc & first floor bathroom. Enclosed rear garden. UPVC double glazed sash style windows. Newly fitted kitchen & bathroom. Walking distance of Porthkerry & Romilly Park.

Heol Miaren, Barry - £234,950
Four bedroom detached residence situated on the Pencoedtre Village development. Hallway, lounge dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen. Utility room, downstairs w/c, family bathroom & ensuite shower to master bedroom. Enclosed, well stocked rear garden. Driveway. Garage with potential to convert.

Churchfields, Barry - £245,000
Well presented five bedroom detached. Hallway, lounge, dining room, family room, conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast room. Downstairs cloakroom. Two bathrooms. Dressing room/office/nursery to master bedroom. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. Off road parking for 2-3 vehicles. Easy access to Cardiff & M4 corridor.

Glan Hafren, Barry - £249,950
Panoramic sea views. Rare to the market, three bedroom penthouse apartment situated in the Knap area. Secure communal entrance hallway accessed via intercom system. Hallway with office area, lounge through dining room, kitchen, bathroom, shower room. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Set in communal gardens. Two garages with ample parking on site.

Heol Y Gaer, Barry - £299,950
Three bedroom detached bungalow in the Knap area. Sea views of Bristol Channel and beyond. Porch, inner hallway. Lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room. Family bathroom. Driveway, detached garage. Gardens to front & rear. Walking distance to The Knap Gardens, Pebble Beach, Lakeside cafes, Romilly and Porthkerry Park.

Lakeside, Barry - £449,000
Three double bedroom detached with stunning views across The Knap, Pebble Beach, Bristol Channel & Somerset coastline. Totally refurbished. Entrance hallway, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, kitchen/dining room, utility room. Balcony accessed via master bedroom. Gardens to front & side elevations. Garage, walking distance of cafes & beaches.

Fontygary Road, Rhoose - £209,950
Two bedroom detached bungalow. Hallway, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, separate wc. Enclosed front & rear gardens, driveway. Detached garage. Gas central heating. Views across Bristol Channel. Close proximity to primary school, bus route & train station. Walking distance to Fontygary Inn and complex, beaches & cliff walks.

Cliffwood View, Barry - £198,950
Two double bedroom semi detached bungalow. Hallway, lounge, conservatory, modern fitted kitchen. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Converted garage/utility area. Enclosed garden with lawn & patio areas. Driveway providing off road paking. Walking distance to Porthkerry Country Park, Cold Knap and beaches.

Coed Mawr, Barry - £175,500
Three bedroom semi detached property set on a corner plot in cul de sac location. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, separate wc, bathroom. Timber framed double glazed windows. Gas central heating. Enclosed front & rear gardens. Driveway. Garage. Walking distance of supermaket and comprehensive schools.

Coed Mawr, Barry - £173,500
Three bedroom semi detached property in cul de sac location. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, Enclosed rear garden. Driveway. UPVC double glazed. Cavity wall insulation. Walking distance to doctors surgery, playing fields, supermarket, & comprehensive schools. Easy access to Cardiff & M4 corridor. No chain.

Heol Dewi Sant, Barry - £127,500
Three bedroom semi detached with far reaching sea views. Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, 2 shower rooms. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Gardens to front, side & rear. Driveway. No chain.

Princes Street, Barry - £124,950
Three bedroom traditional mid terrace property situated in the sought after West End of Barry. Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden. Close proximity to High Street shops, Barry train station & schools. No chain.

Cornwall Rise, Barry - £127,500
Three bedroom semi detached property. Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen, bathroom to first floor. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Gardens to front & rear. Driveway providing off road parking for one vehicle. Garage to rear of property benefiting from power & lighting.

Paget Heights, Barry - £99,950
Range of luxury first floor one bedroom newly renovated apartments with views across Barry Island, Bristol Channel & Somerset coastline. Modern kitchen, luxury bathroom with shower. Carpeted throughout. Fully double glazed. Allocated parking space. Leasehold 999 years from 2012.

Glanfa Dafydd, Barry - £149,950
Duplex penthouse apartment with two double bedrooms situated on The Waterfront development. Lounge, large fitted kitchen/diner with French doors opening onto balcony. Two bathrooms. Large balcony with views of the Waterfront. Allocated parking space with further guest parking. Close proximity to town centre.

Paget Heights, Barry - £149,950
Range of luxury second floor two bedroom newly renovated apartments situated with views across Barry Island, Bristol Channel & Somerset coastline. Modern kitchen fully equipped. Luxury bathroom with shower. Carpeted throughout. Fully double glazed. Allocated parking space. Leasehold 999 years from 2012.

High Street, Barry - £149,000
Ground floor shop unit with one bedroom flat above. Situated in prime location in sought after High Street shopping area, West End of Barry. Main shop area approx 27m/291ft, separate staff room/kitchen facilities and wc. Gas central heating. Garden area with rear lane access. Total floor area approx 36m/385ft.

Castleland Street, Barry - £160,000
15 self contained lock up units plus offices above and further storage to the ground floor situated just off the Town Centre of Barry. Strong potential income. Within easy access of Cardiff and Penarth.

Palmersvale Business Centre - £7,000pa
Opportunity to lease two storey unit. Workshop/storage area to ground floor. Office to first floor. Toilet facilities. Three phase electricity. Car parking spaces to front. Large roller shutter. Rent subject to VAT. Rates payable 2012/13 approx £2757 pa. Easy access to Penarth, Sully, Cardiff and link road to M4 corridor.

Windsor Road, Penarth - £25,000
Opportunity to lease ground floor commercial unit on a corner plot with large dry basement. Comprising main shop floor area, secondary shop area. Retail storage areas approx 100m²/1075ft². Basement approx 90m²/968ft². Situated amongst many independent and national retailers.

Holton Road, Barry - £99,950
Commercial unit with good living accomodation above in central location towards east end of Holton Road. Comprises ground floor shop unit with security roller shutter door. Living acommodation: lounge & kitchen to ground floor. Three bedrooms & bathroom to first floor. Gas central heating via combi boiler. UPVc double glazing.

84 HIGH STREET, BARRY CF62 7DX ✯ WWW.KNIGHTS.UK.COM

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

David O'Brien – **Hensol Castle, Miskin** – Lift crown nominally by pruning back secondary limbs and foreshortening to lift limbs off the ground.

Mr Matthew George – **25 Church Avenue, Penarth** – Demolition and rebuilding of red brick boundary wall within conservation area due to structural failure.

Joanne Rushton – **12 Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan** – Proposed two storey extension to rear.

Mr Barry Llewellyn – **1 The Limes, Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Change of use of both ground and first floor to pet shop and veterinarian business, plus two storey extensions to side and rear and associated alterations.

Mr and Mrs Glyn James – **30 Andover Close, Barry** – Construction of new sun lounge to rear of dwelling.

Alison Pierry – **2 Marine Parade, Penarth** – Fell conifer hedge – left front boundary.

Sallie Hobbs – **5 Station Road, Dinas Powys** – Reduce 3 western red cedars by 30 per cent in height from 30ft to 20ft and branches overhanging the wall.

Mr Lyndsay Ellis – **181 Court Road, Barry** – Freestanding V-shaped sign.

Mr RW Protheroe – **8 Clive Crescent, Penarth** – Second floor balcony.

Andrew Raymond and Jonathan Raymond – **Waterton Lodge, Colwinston, Cowbridge** – Residential development with associated access, and the demolition of the existing dwelling.

Ms Hannah Meacham – **No 6, Vista Court, Northcliffe Drive, Penarth** – Replacement of existing window with patio style door and Juliette guarding.

Mr Peter Goldie – **High Trees, South Road, Sully** – Proposed conversion of an existing dwelling into two luxury apartments.

The Co-operative Group – **Co-operative Retail Services Ltd, 26 Windsor Road, Penarth** – The installation of two new AC condenser units.

Mr Lawrence Gainey – **Penrhiw Bungalow, The Downs, St Nicholas** – Retrospective planning for a side extension to my house, and planning approval for a loft conversion; side extension work complete, but loft conversion not started.

Mr Jon James – **The Glebe, The Causeway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Demolition of existing kitchen/conservatory/utility and garage. New build extension of kitchen/utility, additional bedroom and new garage hard standing.

Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd – **Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth** – Alteration to insert a spiral stair to provide access from the ground floor to first floor to link the cafe at the seaward end of the building.

Mr David Smith – **10, Paget Place, Penarth** – Extension to existing utility room.

Mr Mo Farah – **10A, Royal Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Glass etching or vinyl logo on one window, Cafe Nomad text above door.

Mr Jonathan Lane – **Crescent Corner Newsagents, 41 Park Crescent, Barry** – 8 metre x 3 metre hoarding for advertisement. Advertisement to be confirmed.

Mr John Williams – **Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea** – Restoration of site.

Mrs W Hartrey – **4 Jenkinsville, Clive Place, Penarth** – Hip to gable loft conversion to existing domestic dwelling.

Mr Andrew Jones – **18 Westgate, Cowbridge** – Two storey rear outbuilding with accommodation to first floor and a rear extension to house.

Mrs P Copley – **West Winds, St Mary Church** – Revised design to sunroom – ref 2012/00341/FUL.

INRG Solar Ltd – **Land adjacent to Sutton Mawr Farm, Barry** – Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays to provide 8MW generation capacity together with transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; fencing; security measures; access gate and ancillary infrastructure.

E Sourlis – **Windmill Cottage, Beach Road, Marcross** – Single storey extension to front.

Mrs Elizabeth Wood – **13 Craven Walk, Penarth** – Rear single storey extension to provide a utility room, wc and bedroom with en-suite.

Mr Richard Ellis – **14 Channel Close, Rhoose** – Proposed first floor extension to side elevation above existing kitchen/utility room and alteration to existing porch to include a pitched roof above (instead of existing flat roof).

Chris Davies Estate Agents – **Chris Davies Estate Agents, 24 High Street, Barry** – Change of use from first and second floor offices to two bedroom apartment including alteration to personnel access.

Mr David Howells – **27 Beechwood Drive, Penarth** – Porch.

Mrs Delyth Hodgson-Downs – **Brynhawddgar, Ruthin, St Mary Hill** – Proposed menage and agricultural store building.

Mr Carl Terry – **Meadowvale Nursery, Cowbridge Road, Llantwit Major** – Application for a horticultural retail area and tea room.

Mr Hywel Southway – **10 Hensol Villas, Hensol** – Ground floor extension to front of dwelling, ground and first floor extension to rear of dwelling.

Silver Crescent Estates Ltd – **42 Clive Place, Penarth** – Part demolition of existing rear annexe and alterations to create three self-contained residential units.

Mrs Suzie Morel – **The Stables, adjacent to The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely** – Extension and renovation of existing property from two residential units to a single dwelling, including part demolition and part conversion of adjoining stable block to domestic garaging, and ancillary external works including modified vehicular access.

Richard Hayward Properties – **Beach Cliff, The Esplanade, Penarth** – Application for Change of Use from approved Use Class D2 (Gym) to Use Class A3 (Restaurant) on ground floor; Change of Use from Use Class C3 (Residential Unit) to Use Class C1 (Hotel) on a section of first, second and third floor.

RE Phillips & Partners – **Hayes Road, Sully** – Residential development (outline).

Mr Warren Pemberry – **29 Colcot Road, Barry** – Proposed alterations to existing as built to party boundary wall to number 27 and retention of rear extension wall and party boundary wall to number 31 as built, and addition of juliet balcony.

Charles Church (East Wales) Ltd – **site of former quarry, Leckwith Road, Llandough** – Construction of 24 residential units and associated works.

g2 Energy Renewable Developments Ltd – **Hill House Farm, St Marys Hill, Bridgend** – Erection of a single wind turbine, with maximum blade to height of 77 metres, along with accompanying access track, crane, hardstanding, substation, associated underground cabling and temporary construction compound.

Mr Chris Dando – **Land at 74 Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwellings with revised vehicular access.

Mrs Cindy Dwyer – **Holm View Cottage, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Replacement dwelling of existing bungalow.

Ms Lucy George – **Hillside, Peterston Super Ely** – 27m x 40m outdoor riding arena and new steel framed building.

Mr Pui Chung Lee – **17 Fontygary Road, Rhoose** – New three bedroom detached house.

Mrs Emma Dobson – **127 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Demolish existing coal shed and build single storey kitchen extension.

Mr Trevor Griffiths – **21 West Farm Road, Ogmore By Sea** – Porch extension to front of property.

Mr Gareth Gamblin – **Bridge House, Bridge Street, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Minor building alteration providing a glazed screen to turn a woodstore to form an enlarged kitchen.

Mr Lance Carver – **Bryneithin, St Andrews Road, St Andrews Major, Dinas Powys** – Demolition (down to foundation level) of the main building at Bryneithin.

Mr Ben Horton – **Land on Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry** – Install a 10m slimline lattice tower with two 0.3m diameter dishes installed at a height of 8 to 10m above ground level.

Mitchells & Butlers Retail Ltd – **Barons Court, Penarth Road, Penarth** – Repair works to porch.

Mr James Jewell – **Grove Cottage, Sigginstone** – Fell three cypresses and one western red cedar and laburnum; reduce height and shorten limbs to north-west on one copper beech and light reduction to blue atlas cedar.

Ms Rachel Miles – **30 Victoria Road, Penarth** – Remove three leylandii trees and one yew tree.

Miss Mandy Stringer – **305 Barry Road, Barry** – New vehicle crossover and new driveway/parking bay.

Mr and Mrs Andrew Lord – **Ty Cerrig, Bonvilston** – Forestry machinery store building.

Mr Gareth Thomas – **Badgers Hollow, Graig Penllyn** – First floor side extension.

Mr David Morgan – **5 Nant Canna, Treoes** – First floor extension above current kitchen extension.

Mr John McGee – **2 Cwrt Leubren, Barry** – Single storey extension to rear.

Mr Shaun Cuddihy – **Land formerly known as Boys Village, West Aberthaw** – Proposed new stable block on former tennis courts and paddocks to playing fields.

Mr David Woodman – **The Plough and Harrow, Monknash** – Demolition of existing toilets and cold store (not listed). Extension of existing pub. Rebuild of existing outbuildings to provide residential accommodation and shop.

Mr Abdul – **Rear of The Lindens, Bradford Place, Penarth** – Fell four semi-mature sycamore trees, one holly tree and one bay tree.

Mr Barry Sayers – **14 Hickman Road, Penarth** – Replace front elevation windows with similar design double glazed hardwood box sash.

Mr A Rogers – **46 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Re-render the two storey bay to the front, fit eight UPVC sliding sash windows to the bay only.

Mr and Mrs David and Dawn Taylor – **163 Colcot Road, Barry** – Single storey side and rear extension and front porch.

Mr Paul Motte – **United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St Donats Castle, St Donats** – Internal alterations to Great Hall.

Mr David Pearn – **Tynewydd y Bryn, Peterston Super Ely** – Erection of a hay barn and machinery store.

MHA Care Group – **Penarth House, 26 – 28** – Permanent For Sale/To Rent advertisement board.

Mr Mark Haynes – **St Cyres Lower Comprehensive School, Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of two storey school building and the caretaker's house.

The governors of Stanwell School – **Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth** – The Change of Use of an existing unoccupied caretaker's house from a dwelling to Non Residential Institution (School) D1 use.

Le Guilcher Architecture – **The Old Coal Yard, Arcot Lane North, Penarth** – Demolition of commercial premises (currently B1 + B8 use); change of use for residential usage for two houses.

Mr K and Mrs J Phillips – **18 Drylla, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – Two storey side extension.

Mr Mike Bretland – **7 Beach Road, Penarth** – Proposed orangery style extension and rear utility extension.

Mr BL Bennett – **61 Hillside Drive, Cowbridge** – Change velux window to dormer window to match two other dormer windows on same roof plane.

Mr GM David – **7 Trebeferad, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension, porch and conservatory.

Mr Keith Harvey – **10 The Meridian, Penarth Portway, Penarth** – Replace existing (13 years old) patio doors.

Caffe Nero – **4 Birds Lane, Cowbridge** – Replace the existing shopfront with a painted hardwood version; fit condensor units to the exterior; shopfit the interior for use by Caffe Nero.

Mr and Mrs P and C Gunter – **4 Robinswood Close, Penarth** – Loft conversion with rear dormer and front porch extension.

Mr Alex Moult – **13 Stallcourt Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Ground and first floor extension.

Vale of Glamorgan Council – **Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, Colcot Road, Barry** – Removal of existing demountable classroom units and creation of new primary school building with associated playground, parking, landscaping and lighting.

Mr Dave Jaques – **14 Le Sor Hill, Peterston Super Ely** – Single storey lean-to extension to rear of house.

Mr Ross Toshack – **15 Stacey Road, Dinas Powys** – Single storey side extension; single storey rear extension; installation of five rooflights.

Mr David Mais – **20B Glebe Street, Penarth** – Retrospective change of use of an existing office unit into a private hire taxi booking office at first floor level. The application also includes the provision of an external radio mast/antenna on the roof of the building.

Mr Alun Hughes – **4 Birch Grove, The Knap, Barry** – Crown lift and crown reduction to eucalyptus.

Mr Maria Hajigeorgis – **16 York Place, Barry** – The proposed development includes the change of use of the ancillary retail floor space to create a self-contained one bedroom apartment to the rear of 16 York Place.

Mr Alan Palmer – **11 Arno Road, Barry** – Two storey extension on end elevation and porch.

Nero Holdings Ltd – **Caffe Nero, 4 Birds Lane, Cowbridge** – Change of use of ground floor from A1 to A1/A3.

Mr and Mrs Tom Dodsworth – **3 Railway Terrace, Penarth** – Loft conversion with dormer to rear.

Mr Rob Gwilliam – **51 Amherst Crescent, Barry Island** – First floor side granny annexe and rear conservatory.

Persimmon Homes – **Showhome Plot 1, White Farm, Barry** – Proposed alteration of approved dwelling to include rear conservatory extension along with temporary visitory parking.

Mr John Ursell – **16 Orchard Crescent, Dinas Powys** – New single storey bungalow on land to the side of 16 Orchard Crescent.

Mr Peter Draper – **3 West Farm Close, Ogmore By Sea** – Garage extension.

Mr Philip Allen – **Aberthaw Power Station, The Leys, Aberthaw** – Construction, operation and decommissioning of a post combustion carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide capture demonstration plant on land at Aberthaw Power Station, The Leys, Aberthaw, temporary for a period of up to five years.

Mr David Powell – **Mill Lodge, Windmill Close, Wick** – Retrospectively, the amendment and retention of a means of enclosure.

Miss Tracie Randall – **Dyffryn House South, Dyffryn Business Park, Llandow, Nr Cowbridge** – Change of use from offices to gym and fitness studio.

Mr Colin Faulkner – **The Bower, High Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove sycamore tree.

The Occupiers – **Ivy Villa, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove all tips from overhanging branches of yew.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 – Section 82

VACANCY FOR LAY MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Do you want to know more about the way the Vale of Glamorgan Council's finances operate? Could you offer a strong and independent voice on the Council's financial affairs? Are you interested in local government and want to play a role in scrutinising how it works?

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is looking for a citizen to sit as an independent member of its Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee is important because it:

- reviews, scrutinises and issues reports and recommendations in relation to the Council's financial affairs
- reviews, scrutinises and issues reports and recommendations on the Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements
- oversees its audit arrangements and reviews its financial statements.

It is also possible that other relevant functions will be given to its Audit Committee.

The Council wants to appoint one lay member, the appointment to be until the local government election in May 2017. Applications are invited from anyone who would be interested in this position. In order to be eligible applicants must:

- be independent of the Council
- recognise and understand the value of the audit function
- have no business connection with the Council
- have knowledge of how local government functions
- display independence of thinking and unbiased attitudes.

The Council reserves the right to include additional eligibility criteria if the number of applicants satisfying the above criteria exceeds 4 in total.

When making the appointment, the Council will consider:

- your political independence
- your independence from the council
- your ability to meet the time commitment involved
- your ability to understand and weigh up evidence
- your understanding of local government.
- giving preference to applicants with main residency within the Vale of Glamorgan demonstrating an awareness of local issues.

If you believe you meet the above requirements and are interested in becoming a lay member of the Audit Committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Council you should forward a letter of application "In Confidence" to the Council's Monitoring Officer at the address below explaining your suitability for the post, together with two references by no later than Thursday 29th August 2013. All applications will be judged on merit and are subject to the submission of a letter of application and references.

The successful candidate will be entitled to receive a daily fee of £198 (£99 for half day) for attending meetings of the Audit Committee (payments to be capped at a maximum of ten full days per year).

The Council is an equal opportunities employer and provider of services and welcomes applications from women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

It is intended that interviews will take place in September 2013 and that the successful applicant will take up their appointment with effect from the next meeting of the Committee.

The Monitoring Officer
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU
Telephone: (01446) 709402

Or email:DMarles@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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NEW

Harding Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms, Conservatory
Kitchen/Diner
£189,950 C72

NEW

Tewdrig Close, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
18' Kitchen/Diner
Garage
£279,950 E54

NEW

Leigh Close Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Extended and Refurbished
No Onward Chain
£174,950 C69

Trebeferad, Boverton
3 Bedrooms
72' Garden
No Stamp Duty
£109,950 E44

NEW

Byron Court, Llantwit Major
1 Bedroom
uPVC + Combi
1st Floor Flat
£68,950 C80

NEW

Elm Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Kitchen/Diner
No Chain
£94,950 E50

Scott Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Southerly Rear Garden
No Stamp Duty
£98,500 E43

Glebeland Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Gas Central Heating
In Need Of Updating
£125,000 D64

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms, 65' Rear Garden
No Chain
£149,950 D65

Cwrt Y Cadno, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Conservatory
No Chain
£159,950 D70

Illtyd Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Southerly Rear Garden
£159,950 C72

Ty Mawr Gwyn, Flemingston
5 Beds 4 Recps
Adjoining Open Fields
Granny Annex Option
£350,000 E42

Windmill Close, Wick
Detached & Spacious
4 Double Bedrooms
Select Quiet Close
£410,000 D56

Byron Court, Llantwit Major
4 First Floor Retirement Flat
Scheme Manager
£89,950 C78

Cambrian Avenue, Llantwit Major
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Southerly Rear Garden
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D67 - £495 pcm
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Chestnut Avenue, St Athan
E49 - £525 pcm
2 Bedrooms, Refurbished Kitchen/Diner, Additional Attic Room

Llys Dwynwen, Llantwit Major
C73 - £525 pcm
Two bedrooms, Conservatory, GCH

Scott Close, St Athan
E43 - £575 pcm
Four bedrooms,Sitting/dining room, Oven and hob

Ffordd Yr Eglwys, North Cornelly, Bridgend
D68 - £575 pcm
Three Bedrooms,Two Receptions, Large Rear Garden

Harding Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major Bridgend
D59 - £625 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen diner, Large Rear Garden

Maes Slowes Leyes, Rhoose
C78 - £695 pcm
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Porfa Ballas, Rhoose
C74 - £795 pcm
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Birthdays

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Happy 21st Birthday
on 14 August
All our love, Mum, Dad, Glyndwr & Liam *xxx*

Happy Birthday
KATHRYN JONES
on August 21
From all your colleagues at **The GEM**
x x x x

Family Notices

RUSSELL
Leon

Mike, Norma and family would like to thank all friends and relatives for their kind support, flowers, messages of sympathy and for attending the recent funeral service of their son Leon at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Barry, on August 6.

Very special thanks to the minister Duncan Ballantine for his faultless service, heartfelt prayers and words of great comfort proclaimed during the service.

Also, our thanks to funeral directors W. James and Son of Fonmon, for the good service and comfort they provided during a very difficult time.

Finally, thanks to the staff of the Brynhill Golf Club for providing excellent catering and service throughout the afternoon.

STEWART
Eddie D

Suddenly on the 7th August 2013, Eddie of Llantwit Major, dearly loved husband of the late Joyce and a loving father and grandfather.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral on Wednesday 21st August in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

COLSTON
Dot

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on Wednesday, 31st July, 2013, aged 99 years. Wife of the late Bert, mother of Margaret, Ray, Den, Mike, Gary and Janet.

The funeral service will take place at 3.00pm on Friday, 16th August at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers can be made on the day to Ty Hafan.

All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21a Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. (02920) 514627)

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Readers' Letters

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Fears over housing at Weycock Cross

I READ again with dismay about the latest attempt by a building developer to build a housing estate at Weycock Cross, Barry.

Sadly this appears to be the latest developer to 'test the water' in their desire to build 200 houses at Weycock Cross.

Some may argue the houses are needed together with employment opportunities which would be created. However, there are many other reasons why this proposal should not be allowed.

It is evident it is against planning policy of the local authority. It cannot be denied the site remains outside the development boundary.

Equally, the land has been used for agricultural purposes not residential development.

No doubt the developer will seek to capitalise on alleged lack of housing supply due to the delay of the new development plan.

However, the local authority will no doubt deal with such an issue and therefore it is clear the planning application is premature.

One would hope the local authority would defend its position, but ultimately this would potentially be at the expense of the council taxpayer in terms of legal costs.

Surely there are far more suitable sites to build rather than the greenfields as suggested. Again this is against planning policy. It is concerning an additional 500 houses could also follow in close proximity to Weycock Cross if planning precedent was set.

How would Port Road cope? Many commuters will already have witnessed disruption on Port Road itself. How would tourism in the Vale be encouraged, or Cardiff Airport be promoted? The road infrastructure is clearly inadequate.

The public consultation period for planning permission has commenced and will end on August 27.

It is important to write or email the council planning department to outline any objections, quoting reference 2013/00701/out.

Jonathan Hewitson
Barry

'Still no lanes to make cycling safe'

OUR neighbours over the water are set to receive a share of £77 millions with seven other English cities to provide better cycling networks.

Bristol is already streets ahead of the whole of my own county in respect of cycling lanes. I have campaigned for years for a 'cycling motorway' to be built between Barry and Cardiff Bay through Dinas Powys.

The route is flat and ideal for cyclists, who at present have to risk their lives and negotiate the very dangerous stretch between Cadoxton and Southra Park estate in Dinas Powys.

This stretch cost a young mother her life as she walked home one Sunday morning less than two years ago but nothing has been done since to make this road safer for walkers or cyclists – despite even more previous fatalities on the railway line – almost certainly caused by frustrated pedestrians who took to the rail lines because of the lack of a decent footpath.

I have just written to my MP for help, but as with our 50+ year campaign for a much-needed by-pass, we are continually ignored and the most I have gained in recent years is a feasibility study for a cycle/footpath which showed that it would be too expensive to build, difficult to negotiate and buy the land required.

With budgets tight and not much support from a largely non-cycling council membership, I'm afraid keen cyclists from Barry and Dinas Powys will have to keep risking their lives on a narrow dangerous road in all weathers, with no help from the Vale Council.

Christopher Williams
(Elected Member, Democratic Services, Vale Council)

IMMIGRATION – LEGACY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE?

I WRITE to you in response to a recent letter you published from Laurence Reid in Sigingstone who failed utterly to grasp, in his rant against immigration, the reason there are so many immigrants in Britain.

We are here because you were there. Simple, isn't it?

Britain has historically impoverished several nations – most so-called 'developing nations' were the object of Britain's greed, all cloaked with the pretence of virtue.

That greed has now come back to bite contemporary Britain on the bottom, through the very immigration that Mr Reid whines about.

Another letter on the same page caught my attention, this one from G Smith in Llantwit Major who starts off well, pointing out how MP Alun Cairns singularly fails to notice the Conservative party's effect on poverty – a man-made phenomenon.

However, at the end of his letter, Mr Smith appears to switch – and develop a problem with overseas funding.

Perhaps this funding can make some small amends for Britain's colonial past?

Monica Banerjee
Barry

Confusion over the EU bill...

THERE is confusion about how much we give to the EU – I saw £12.23 billion mentioned recently.

Whatever it is, we are net contributors, and it is no comfort to be given back just some of our own money and told how to spend it – on industrial regeneration or anything else – when we could decide ourselves how to spend it – and have more to spend, anyway.

As for being 'on our own', like Norway, we might join the European free trade area, and still have access to the single market.

...Or we might be like Turkey and just have a customs-free union – Turkey grows less and less keen on EU membership.

In any case, I read that we run a trade deficit with the EU, so it needs us more than we need it.

As for 'unelected' and 'unaccountable' – have any of your readers ever voted for an EU commissioner?

RH Bradshaw
Cowbridge

HATS OFF TO BARRY TOWN!

I AM writing to say how pleased I am that Barry Town are to make a return to the Welsh League.

The judge's ruling was certainly the right one and proved that the decision to withdraw the club was unlawful. The decision of judge Seys Llewellyn QC showed that there were failings in the Welsh FA's remit and that Barry Town United must be allowed to play in the third division.

It is now down to the Welsh FA to ratify the club's return – and for their sake they now need to put this right to restore faith in their organisation.

I would at this point also wish to thank manager Gavin Chesterfield and the dedicated band of local supporters for keeping the team going in these difficult circumstances.

At last we now have an end to this long-running dispute and I am absolutely delighted with this outcome. For the last 100 years, football has been taking place in Barry and long may it continue.

Hats off to the supporters who have done a remarkable job and have loudly spoken out for what is a great passion in this town.

As a representative of Barry, I would like to go on record in saying this is an excellent result for our local community and this latest result is an amazing goal for us. This decision means so much to this town, and I am with you all the way.

Now it is time for the Welsh FA to act and make sure that Barry Town United is back where they belong!

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent,
Vale Council.

WHY TAR AND CHIP ROADS?

AT long last, the roads around Barry are being resurfaced after years of neglect by the council.

I am disappointed to see tar and chip being used across several areas of the Vale, despite this surface proving to be a failure on Cardiff Road on the way to Dinas.

The surface on that road soon wore down and became pitted quite quickly, not to mention the huge amounts of loose gravel left on the road surface for days being an issue for motorcyclists.

So why, when our taxes are being spent on resurfacing this road in a relatively short amount of time, is the same tar and chip surfacing being deployed on other roads like Five Mile Lane and through Wick and Ewenny?

Our roads need proper resurfacing, not just simple redressing just so the council can tick a box and say its done something.

Kevin Watts,
Barry.

Big Knit appeal

AGE Cymru is calling for help with its Big Knit fundraiser.

"We're looking for knitters to knit little bobble hats which will appear on Innocent smoothie bottles in Sainsbury's stores across Wales," says spokeswoman Nia Butler.

"Age Cymru receives a donation for every smoothie hat knitted and money raised by The Big Knit allows us to help older people to stay fit, healthy and active during the winter months and keep their homes warm."

Call 029 2043 1555 or send an email to emm.lionel@agecymru.org.uk for details. The deadline for sending hats to Age Cymru is September 18.

Sully Sports shine in tournament

LAST weekend saw Sully Sports RFC make the annual trip to Southmead RFC for a charity 10s tournament in aid of Help for Heroes.

The first team that Sully were to face in this tournament was Ashdown RFC which saw Sully dominate from the start and with some great tries coming from Nathan Taylor, Ben Such, Mike Angove, Harry Moyle and Nathan Szuchnik, Sully won the game 24-5.

Next up was local Bristol side St Marys RFC. Sully didn't get off to a great start, as a few missed tackles and a bad line of defence saw St Marys cross the line to open up the scoring.

Not to be deterred by this, Sully regrouped and with some great ball carries by Jody Velda, saw a platform set up for Wayne Jones to cross the line and bring the scores back level.

This inspired the Sports and some great rugby was played, which saw Nathan Taylor score a hat-trick of tries followed by Sam Bowditch notching one for the forwards. This game finished 26-14 and the Sports were now two wins from two.

A further three games were played which saw Sully go on to beat hosts Southmead RFC 21-5 and Avonmouth RFC 17-12. Unfortunately the last team Sully were due to play pulled out, but with Sully at this point with four wins from four, it meant that none of the other teams could catch them so a place in the final was secure.

The final was played against St Marys, who Sully had beat in the first match. The team were hungry for this game, as Sully have been attending this tournament for the last nine years and were yet to win it.

The final kicked off and was very physical from the start, but the forwards stepped up to the plate and created space for Jake Williams to cross the line.

From the restart Sully took their eye off the game to let St Marys straight back into it. Some stern words from captain John Thomas saw Sully play some outstanding rugby and scored some breathtaking tries through Nathan Taylor, Ben Such and Nathan Szuchnik.

At the final whistle Sully had won the game 24-5, crowning them champions of Southmead 10s 2013.

This is a massive step for Sully Sports RFC who three years ago were playing Cardiff and District rugby, and are now at WRU level.

The club would like to thank South Wales Lift Services and CJ Travel Contract services for their continued support.

For anyone wishing to join Sully Sports RFC, training nights take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 6.30pm at the Sully Sports and Social Club, South Road, Sully.

MA

INTER-DARTS LEAGUE GAME SEES BARRY LOSS

ON August 9, the first inter-league darts match took place between sides from the Barry Darts League and the Caldicot and Magor Darts League.

The away side arrived at the Barry Football Club, bringing 17 players and over 20 extra supporters, far outnumbering the home support.

The match began with both sides sharing the opening four, high quality games. Caldicot and Magor then produced some fantastic darts to win the next eight ties.

A brief rally from the Barry team saw them win the next three ties but Caldicot and Magor took the final two games to give them a 12-5 victory.

Even though the Barry darts league's first venture into this type of match resulted in a resounding defeat, all players and supporters involved had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and look forward to a return game in the future.

The darts produced on the night was of the highest quality with Matt Stanger, Terry Overton and Mark Driscoll (all Barry League) and Rob Leigh and Geraint Davies (Caldicot & Magor) all hitting 180s on the night; Geraint Davies also hit a 101 out shot.

Wins for the Barry side came from Matt Stanger, Terry Overton, Richie Williams, Kevin Seldon and Peter de Souza.

I would like to thank Dave Cutts for the original idea for the match, all the players and supporters for helping to make this such an entertaining evening, and also like to thank Mike Stringer and the staff of the Barry Football Club for hosting the event and providing the food on the night.

RL

Hannah and Emily's medal haul success

HANNAH and Emily Hunt (above) of Rhoose Tae Kwon Do did their club proud at the North Midlands Championships this past weekend.

The girls won an impressive haul of five medals between them. Hannah got gold in individual sparring and in the tag team sparring, and a silver in the strike pad event.

Emily got a bronze in the individual sparring and a gold in the strike event.

Hannah and Emily have fought in numerous competitions for the past three years, winning many events. They have represented Rhoose Tae Kwon Do club and instructor Mr Schembri to the fullest of their capability.

In September they will be moving to Florida with their parents to embark on a new adventure - we wish them all the luck and are proud of these two Rhoose girls - well done from all at Rhoose Tae Kwon Do.

JS

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BUSY TIMES AT LOCAL GOLF CLUB

THE exceptional spell of good weather meant that all competitions went ahead as planned at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club and members, guests and visitors were all able to play on a course which continues to be in simply stunning condition.

The second session of captain's day involved a Mixed Greensome Foursomes and club captain Barrie Jones was delighted with the excellent support on the day. The clear winners were Tom and Linda Marples who combined to produce a score of 47 points and thoroughly deserved their prize of a voucher for a meal for two at the Beech Tree Inn; Nicola Sims and Simon Gatheridge took second place with 41 points.

The popular members and guests day was also very well supported with almost 100 players taking part and once again the condition of the course, particularly the magnificent greens, was the main talking point.

Mike Osbourne and his guest James Humphries dovetailed perfectly to produce a round of top quality to comfortably win the 'four ball better ball' with a net 64 strokes.

They both deserved their winning voucher of £100 each to purchase golf equipment of their choice. The runners-up spot was keenly contested with four pairs returning a net score of 67 points. Jeff Hutchings and guest Paul Thomas squeezed home to take second place on count back just ahead of Matthew Gill and Hugh Tate; both pairs received vouchers and a share of the sweep.

Barrie Jones thanked the members and their guests for their support and paid tribute to the catering and bar staff who worked so well on a very busy and long day. He also thanked club professional Jason Harris for his efficient administration of the tournament throughout the day.

During July several other honours board competitions were held including the 50th Year Cup won by Nick Caulfield and Ian Pearcey and The Renwick Seniors Trophy was won by Rob Hill with 41 points. This busy period saw the Seniors Open contested by a huge field of 166 players from far and wide but it was club member Mike Froud who took the honours with an impressive 44 points.

Has Wenvoe Castle Got Talent? This question may be asked about the golfing skills on the magnificent championship course but the stage was set on the panoramic patio for club members to show what they can do in the world of music.

A warm and balmy summer's evening provided the ideal conditions and over 100 members provided the enthusiastic audience for what would prove to be a quite stunning and very professional performance.

The evening opened with music provided by resident DJ Leigh Ivory while members tucked into a hog roast superbly cooked by chef David Reis and his team.

Before the show commenced members generously took part in a special raffle to raise funds to 'save the fish' in the pond on the 10th hole. The recent hot weather had seen the pond almost dry and large volumes of water had been used to keep the pond filled and help the many fish who were clearly struggling to survive.

The clearly talented Brian McConkey acted as MC for the evening and opened the show with 'Up On the Roof' originally by the Drifters. Next up was Jeremiah 'Pip' Smith who impressed the audience with a trio of folk songs including 'St James Infirmary Blues' and 'Fields of Home'.

This was quickly followed by Adrian Jones who had the patio in full swing with him as he sang 'Fields of Athenry', an Irish folk ballad set in the years of the Great Famine.

Ken Howells brought a European dimension to the show as he bravely sang all the national anthems of the countries in the rugby Six Nations and by the time he reached a climax with the Welsh, the whole audience was up standing and formed its own Wenvoe Castle Choir.

Mavis Kempson was then given a tremendous ovation for her version of 'Moon River' from Breakfast at Tiffany's and then followed by 'Till (the moon deserts the sky...)' one of Shirley Bassey's big hits.

The top quality show was rounded off by Brian McConkey who showed his tremendous versatility with a medley of songs including 'Piano Man' and a number of famous hits by the Beatles.

It was an evening to remember and Barrie Jones paid tribute to all those who had taken part confirming Wenvoe Castle indeed has talent.

He thanked all who had made the arrangements and contributed to the very successful evening particularly the organisers Marilyn Davies and Nicola Sims.

The evening continued deep into the early hours of the morning as the momentum of the show carried on with dancing on the patio to the fine music.

BJ

ABOVE: Linda and Tom Marples with Barrie Jones (centre).

ABOVE: Mike Osbourne (right) and Tom Humphries.

Barrivale news

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club, August 6:

1st Jane Brook & Ken Hannah 59.38%; 2nd Noelle Bond & Irene Thomas 54.17%; 3rd Peter Millar & Mike Best 53.13% - Jane & Ken also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Please note there will be no bridge on August 20 and 27.

MB

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GRAND VOYAGER IS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

MOTORING by TIM SAUNDERS

THERE is only one luxury people mover and that is the Chrysler Grand Voyager.

It is fortunate that I have a grand voyage of my own planned to really put it through its paces. And I am pleased to report that it scored very highly with the Saunders family.

I wanted to whisk my family away for a long weekend to Tichborne's Farm Cottages in Wiltshire and all our belongings would not have fitted into a standard car. It is only when you have at least two children that you realise many cars just aren't big enough anymore.

They won't fit all the paraphernalia. But this cavernous Yank easily swallows everything including our cumbersome tandem pushchair, together with one crib, four days of food for the self-catering break, various suitcases for the girls and a couple of shirts for me...

Life is so very easy with the Chrysler. Everything is electrically operated, including the power-folding wing mirrors and front seats. The rear doors and boot can be opened or closed by pressing the appropriate button on the keyfob or by the front occupants, who can push the roof-mounted switches as you can see in the videos at *testdrives.biz.*

The rear passengers aren't forgotten either, because there is a button close to the inside of each door to use if desired. The doors also automatically slide open when the external handle is pulled.

These rear doors are especially user-friendly when children's car seats need fitting because there is so much space.

Traditional car doors that open outwards often pose a problem when they cannot be fully opened, for instance where there's another car parked next to you in a car park.

The third row of seats, which accommodate three passengers, is easily lifted at the click of a button in the boot. This rises or falls with ease and when stowed, the boot is simply enormous.

My wife likes the fact that there is a space between the two seats in the second row, giving passengers plenty of room and allowing for long items to be easily stored.

As a treat, my eldest daughter is allowed to watch a DVD and headphones are stored in a useful overhead compartment.

This large vehicle is famed for its regular appearance in BBC1's *The Apprentice*, where it ferries hapless candidates to Lord Sugar's various challenges. It's an ideal vehicle for such activities because there is plenty of room inside, making it perhaps more user-friendly than the slightly cheaper but more traditional black cab taxi.

With its brilliant black finish, chrome grille, door mirrors and handles, the Grand Voyager cuts a dashing figure, commanding many a second glance from admiring motorists.

I like the captain's style seats, which incorporate fold down armrests in the front and in the second row. The driving position is excellent and it's a responsive vehicle considering its size, although the brakes are not as responsive as I might wish on some occasions.

The 2.8-litre diesel engine is a little rough around the edges and can be heard from inside the cabin but for me this just adds to the sense that it is a van and that's quite appealing.

It's perhaps what the A-team might have moved up to if they ever became more sophisticated.

The six-speed auto box is guilty of being a little indecisive at times, usually when travelling at low speed up a hill and second gear might do the job just as well as third at around 25 to 30mph.

Despite its size it has the power to safely overtake vehicles at speed along Wiltshire's B-roads.

Overall the Chrysler Grand Voyager is unequalled in terms of luxury and capability. We travel around 300 miles on under half a tank. A hard vehicle for the family to return.

Facts at a glance: Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Limited.

OTR price with options: £36,930.

0-60mph: 12.8secs.

Top speed: 115mph.

Watch the videos at *www.testdrives.biz.*

Deaf golfers tee off at the Vale Golf Resort

DEAF and hard of hearing players have taken up golf thanks to a new initiative by Golf Development Wales and the Vale Golf Resort and Spa, which is set to be rolled out across Wales.

The scheme has attracted over 14 beginners to coaching at the club, while they also hosted the Deaf Four Nations Cup, with more than 40 players from around the UK competing and staying at the resort.

It is the first of a planned 20 inclusive golf hubs around Wales by 2015, providing quality sessions to disabled people within their communities. This is part of the New Golf Development Community Strategy supported by Sport Wales and Disability Sport Wales.

Golf Development Wales recently achieved the Disability Sport Wales Insport Ribbon Award, one of the first in Wales, and are working towards bronze standards.

"The insport programme is a four stage award programme, designed to provide more opportunities for disabled people in sport, in terms of participation, coaching, volunteering, officiating and employment opportunities," said golf development Wales officer Zoe Thacker. "When we originally set up this programme we had no idea the huge impact that it would have.

"The aim was to set up a beginner golf development programme for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in order to break down the barriers deaf people face when accessing golf."

Vale Golf Resort and Spa head golf professional Clive Coombs completed a PGA inclusive golf coaching workshop, sponsored by ISPS Handa, and initiated plans to use the Vale as a hub for deaf coaching activities.

Fourteen deaf and hard of hearing beginners receive coaching at the club.

To find out more about activities at the Vale or any other coaching sessions in Wales check out the website www.golfdevelopmentwales.org to find your nearest club.

Millwood bowls round-up

LAST Wednesday, Millwood faced off against Cadoxton at home in the Munro Cup and earned a 79-59 victory.

On Saturday they were in league action at home to Beddau and lost 82-65, a loss that puts paid to the team's hopes of promotion and leaves them looking nervously over their shoulder as they face Grange this Saturday.

Sully Bridge Club

THE latest Sully Bridge Club results are as follows:

Monday, August 5. North/South, 1 – Peter Millar/Trish Tracy; 2 – Pat Evans/Jane Gretrex; 3 – Judy Collins/Roger Cradick.

East/West, 1 – Patsy Cohen/Joy Secular; 2 – Sam Fellows/Marylin Jones; 3 – Marion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes.

Wednesday, August 7. North/South, 1 – Peter Millar/Trish Tracy; 2 – Ann Williamas/Marilyn Jones; 3 – Pat Evans/Roger Cradick.

East/West, 1 – Bunty Wiseman/Anne Johns; 2 – Pam Powditch/Beryl Marke; 3 – Bill Leyburne/Lynne Leyburne.

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2013 13 Reg	MINI Cooper S Hatch Midnight Black, Grey Lounge Leather, CHILI Pack	4k	£18,850
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2011 61 Reg	MINI Cooper SD Hatch Pepper White, Black Half Leather, Xenon Headlights, CHILI Pack	26k	£15,850
2011 11 Reg	MINI Convertible Interchange Yellow, Black Half Leather, CHILI Pack, 17" Black Star Alloys	30k	£13,450
2011 61 Reg	MINI Cooper Diesel Hatch Pepper White, Black Half Leather, Alloys in Black CHILI Pack	18k	£12,850
2009 09 Reg	MINI Cooper S Clubman Astro Black, Black Half Leather, Silver Stripes, 17" Alloys CHILI Pack	19k	£12,450
2009 59 Reg	MINI Cooper Convertible Midnight Black, Black Half Leather, CHILI Pack	19k	£11,850
2010 10 Reg	MINI Cooper Graphite Special Edition Hatch, Dark Silver, Black Cloth, 16" Alloys CHILI Pack	28k	£9,950
2008 58 Reg	MINI Cooper S Hatch Chili Red, Black Half Leather, White Roof, Xenon Headlights, CHILI Pack	54k	£9,450
2009 09 Reg	MINI Cooper Diesel Hatch Chili Red Black Half Leather, Black Roof, CHILI Pack	45k	£8,950
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GEM sport

The Athletic warm up for new season

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC played their first of three pre-season friendlies against Kenfig Hill.

In a game of 4 quarters, both sides took the opportunity to trial different players. Kenfig Hill were the winners – but both side's coaches saw their teams have valuable game time.

This Saturday they play Bridgend Ravens at the Brewey Field before visiting Kidwelly on August 24.

Pre-season training under head coach John Apsee and assistants David Williams, Paul Jones and Stuart Morris has gone well, and hooker Simon Mustoe will again captain the side.

The forwards have been boosted by the return of former club captain, prop Rod Jones, while flankers Ben Howe and Lee Sims have returned to full time training.

Howe and Sean Williams have been the stand-out players in training; the front row has also been boosted by Rhodri Apsee signing back for the club.

In the backs the club have signed scrum halves Ross Parsons from Porthcawl, whose last club was Pontypool, and Darren Lewis, the brother of outside half Steve, from Bridgend Sports. This will help last season's ever present Aled Thomas, who is unavailable until mid-October.

Unfortunately last season's full back James Olds is now playing rugby in Australia and centre Michael Hathaway is taking a year out of rugby.

Team manager Paul Hearne said: "We are desperately looking for backs who wish to try their hand in Championship rugby. Anybody interested should contact me on 07970348065."

AB

Porthcawl RFC news

PORTHCAWL RFC recently made special awards to two players who have really made their mark in professional rugby in the last couple of seasons.

Both Ryan Bevington and Tom Prydie have brought great honour to the club and town by pulling on the red of Wales, in Tom's case becoming Wales' youngest ever player.

Of course, Tom was then plagued with injury; however he came back with a flourish and moved to the Dragons where he re-established himself as a player of true quality and a points-scoring machine.

Then Ryan, of course, became a Wales squad regular and must have been close to being on the Lions reserve list. In four years' time, we all hope he could be in the frame.

Having just returned from Japan with Wales, he took some time out to get married, so congratulations to him and his new wife from all his friends at Porthcawl RFC.

Both players received their special recognition awards for outstanding commitment to grass roots rugby. The awards were intended to be presented at our end of season presentation night, but as both Tom and Ryan were involved with the Welsh camp (and then Ryan's wedding), it has taken until now to get both players at the same place.

This season's captain Gareth Davies presented the awards at a recent training session. We are extremely proud of their achievements and all at Porthcawl RFC are grateful they both continue to help out at Porthcawl, despite their professional commitments.

New first XV coach Gareth Barker is assembling a very useful squad and has brought a number of players in and is keen to give everyone in the squad a chance to prove their cases during the two forthcoming pre-season friendlies, against Brynithel at home on August 24 and away at old friends Cwmgors on August 31.

A very special visitor and superb after dinner speaker comes to the club on Friday, September 13, as the club hosts the new season's first dinner featuring 'A Night with David Duckham MBE'.

The iconic centre/wing, known as 'Dai Duckham', was one of England's, and the British Lions', greatest players and is still affectionately held in high esteem by his friends in Wales, having been a star in the winning squad in New Zealand in 1971, as well as in that epic match for the BaaBaas against the All Blacks in Cardiff in 1973.

Interest in this night is already huge, as expected, and places are going fast for this special dinner to which all are welcome, subject to availability; call Paul Fielding on 07768 418308/01656 782545 for tickets.

TW

Bridgend bridge club news

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, August 7: first Roger Penton and Julian Pottage, second Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, third Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams.

Friday, August 9: first Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock, second Liam Sheridan and Alan Wiliams, third John Beard and Deb Davies.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, August 8 were Sue Hunt and Marilyn Jones.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm-5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

In the autumn lessons for beginners will resume - to register an interest please contact Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or John Evans (01656 880372), either of whom will welcome your call.

DN

Mo Farrah is an inspiration to children in Ogmore Vale.

Inspiring creations by local youngsters

Children in Maesteg made a knockout model of Muhammad Ali.

CHILDREN in Bridgend county borough have created life-size replicas of people who have inspired them at themed workshops run by BCBC's arts and community development team as part of the Play 4 Life initiative.

The children from Ogmore Vale immortalised double Olympic champion Mo Farrah, while Maesteg's youngsters based their effigy on one of the greatest boxers of all time, Muhammad Ali.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "The creativity of children from all over the county borough really packs a punch, and they've shown off their artistic talents by creating these knockout sculptures of their heroes.

"It's no surprise that children in Ogmore Vale chose a modern day great in Mo Farrah as their inspirational person, but it's interesting that the children in Maesteg selected an icon from a different generation.

"The fact that both sets of children decided to create models of sportspeople highlights the important positions of responsibility they hold in being positive role models for our young people.